THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

BY STAN LEE & JOHN ROMITA

WITH JOHN BUSCEMA

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MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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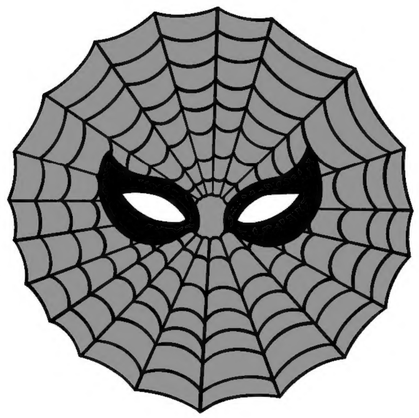
COLLECTING

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Nos. 68-77

STAN LEE • JOHN ROMITA

WITH JOHN BUSCEMA



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MARVEL MASTERWORKS
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THE
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Nos. 68-77

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INTRODUCTION
BY JOHN ROMITA

Everything Stan Lee aimed for in *The Amazing Spider-Man* finds its way into the stories you will enjoy in this *Masterworks*.

The setting for the opening issue is Empire State University in the midst of student riots, which were a common occurrence in the late '60s. Randy Robertson, son of the *Daily Bugle*'s Robbie Robertson, and his fellow students are at an impasse with officials at the school.

Social relevance that reflects the times—right up Stan's alley. There's even a bit with a fiery Gwen Stacy defending Peter Parker's image!

The Kingpin of crime sets out to obtain a priceless stone tablet (which we based on the Rosetta Stone from antiquity) on display at the University. Using the riots as a cover, the Kingpin succeeds and makes off with the tablet. And that's just the beginning of the saga that leads us on a wild ride as the tablet moves through many hands.

Along the way we encounter Quicksilver, the Shocker, a close call for Gwen's father, Captain Stacy, an even closer call for J. Jonah Jameson, Man Mountain Marko, Dr. Curt Connors, a.k.a. the Lizard, and Silvermane, whose final fate is a wonder to behold. And, of course, Spidey goes through more than his share of trouble as he follows the trail of the stone tablet.

You would think, after hearing that outline, that Stan and I planned all of this in advance with each and every twist carefully plotted and orchestrated. I can assure you that was not the case at all! In our story sessions we set out to plot one issue at a time, but we'd be happy just to make it through one *hour* without interruption. Our aim was to get a complete story in one month.

I must tell you first, I foolishly did not tape our planning sessions (that would have been smart) relying on my memory when I got back to the drawing board. We didn't try to do too much at those meetings, and it's a good thing, too.
As we ended the first issue, we had the Kingpin in possession of the tablet, Spidey hot on his trail. We thought, "We'll tie up all the loose ends next month."

But then we just drifted into using the tablet as a thread to run through a few issues while bringing other villains into each story as it suited our needs. This gave us the "complete" monthly stories we were always striving for, and it saved us from having to wrap it all up because we had no idea how we were going to do it!

Writers often claim that they start out a mystery novel with a crime, not knowing how to solve it or who the culprit will be. This always struck me as hard to believe, but this is the position we found ourselves in three to four issues into the run. We never even thought up Silvermane until the seventh issue, let alone a "socko" ending.

The plotting usually consisted of the two of us throwing ideas at each other until one of them seemed "visual" enough for me and provided Stan with opportunities to advance the story. At this point, I must tell you how I struggled with the penciled pages. I approached every plot with pencil in hand and doubt in my mind. I never felt sure if the pages were convincing enough, exciting enough, or even paced well. Deadlines forced me to turn in many a story that I felt was weak and unscriptable. Invariably, when I got the lettered pages to ink, it now looked and felt as though we had planned every step carefully together. Stan often challenged me to produce a penciled story so bad that he couldn't make it work. Magic? No, just Stan Lee.

To add to our problems, Stan needed me on other things for a while, and we called on Big John Buscema for penciling help. I would co-plot with Stan for continuity, and then phone John B. with the plot when ready. This put me in line to hear John's reactions. To be frank, John did not enjoy penciling Spider-Man, and it took all the diplomatic skill I could muster to get him to do it. I was worried the whole time he was working.

I should have known better.

When the pages came in, they were so beautiful, and the characters so sensitive and true, that I was giddy. I learned to disregard Big John's gruff claims that he shouldn't be doing those "dumb" characters.

Let me say a thing about nicknames like "Big" John Buscema and "Madman" Mooney as seen in the credits Stan loved to devise. Forty years later fans still come up to greet me at conventions with "Jazzy" Johnny or "Ring-a-Ding" Romita, and it has been fun for all of us. There's no telling how much it added to the fans and their bonding with all of us.

The beauty and skill that John Buscema brought to all the books he worked on is well known, but the subtlety and storytelling is often overlooked. He was one of my idols, and John influenced me more than I can describe.

Jim Mooney's place in comics history is secure as an all-around artist as versatile as he is good. A master penciler who brings to this part of the *Amazing Spider-Man* run such a powerful dimension with his inking, it is a pleasure to behold.

There's a bonus in this edition: A landmark story from *Marvel Super-Heroes* #14 where Ross Andru got his first crack at Spider-Man. It was an offbeat story for Spidey with mysticism and the occult in an eerie setting, and Ross nailed it. He turned out a distinctive, moody adventure that fans got a kick out of. It was sort of a try-out issue to see if Ross was right for Spider-Man, and sometime later, when I was needed on other chores, Ross was indeed the artist to take on the monthly storytelling job on *Amazing Spider-Man*, with a long and successful run. That same story was blessed with the memorable, powerful inks of the legendary Bill Everett, creator of the Sub-Mariner and one of the all-time Golden Age giants. Fans still talk about this story at conventions to this day.

That reminds me to give long overdue thanks to all those Marvelous readers out there who embraced our characters and loyally supported us all these years, no matter how many twists and turns we've put our heroes through. We proudly offer this collection to all you readers out there, old and new, to enjoy as fully as I have reading these stories again.

JOHN ROMITA

2006

SPIDER-MAN
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MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CRISIS ON CAMPUS!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

CRISIS ON THE CAMPUS!

SO *THAT'S* WHAT THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED *PETRIFIED CLAY TABLET* LOOKS LIKE!

WHY DO YOU CLAIM IT'S SO *VALUABLE,* WILSON?

THRUOUT THE *AGES,* COUNTLESS MEN HAVE *DIED* FOR IT, KINGPIN!

IN *THAT* CASE...IT MUST BE *MINE!*

SCRIPT:	STORYBOARDS:	ILLUSTRATION:	LETTERING:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE	JOHNNY (RING-A-DING) ROMITA	JIM (MADMAN) MOONEY	SAMMY (SWINGER) ROSEN

AND *NOW,* PREPARE FOR A YARN SUCH AS ONLY MIGHTY *MARVEL* WOULD DARE TO SPIN..

IT'S EVEN *OLDER* THAN THE PRICELESS *DEAD SEA SCROLLS!*

THE MAN WHO CAN *DECIPHER* IT MAY LEARN THE GREATEST *SECRETS* OF ALL TIME!

I'VE HEARD *ENOUGH!*

WHERE IS IT *NOW?* HOW CAN I *FIND* IT?

FINDING IT IS *SIMPLE!*

THE *SCIENCE FOUNDATION* HAS BEEN SENDING IT TO DIFFERENT *UNIVERSITIES...*

HOPING THAT *ONE* OF THEM WILL BE ABLE TO *READ* ITS MESSAGE!

PRESENTLY, IT'S ON *EXHIBIT* AT THE CAMPUS OF *E.S.U.*, HERE IN THE *CITY!*

GOOD! IT'LL BE *CHILD'S PLAY* FOR ME TO *SEIZE* IT FROM THERE!

BUT, IT'S UNDER HEAVY *GUARD!*

AND WHAT OF *SPIDER-MAN?*

YOU CAN'T EVEN *SNEEZE* IN THAT PART OF TOWN WITHOUT *HIM* CRAWLING OUT OF THE WOODWORK!

SPIDER-MAN?!!

DO YOU THINK I'D CHANGE MY PLANS FOR *HIM?*

THOK!

IT WAS ONLY THRU THE SHEEREST *LUCK* THAT HE MANAGED TO *ESCAPE* ME IN THE PAST!

I'VE BEEN *HOPING* OUR PATHS WOULD CROSS *AGAIN!*

FOR, I'LL NEVER LET MYSELF *FORGET...* WHAT I *OWE* HIM!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW EASILY THE *KINGPIN* CAN CRUSH A *DOZEN* SPIDER-MEN ---!

BUT, LEST YOU THINK I'M MERELY WHISTLING IN THE *DARK...*

LOOK ALIVE, YOU WORTHLESS, INEFFECTUAL STUMBLEBUMS!

IT'S TIME FOR MY DAILY WORKOUT!

AND IF YOU DON'T PUT SOME MUSCLE INTO IT---

I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D NEVER HEARD OF ME!

BUT...IT'LL BE SIX AGAINST ONE TODAY, BOSS!

YA WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!

THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL THINK!

THE KINGPIN'S SUCH A NICE, OLD, JOLLY FAT MAN...

...HE PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN CLIMB A FLIGHT OF STAIRS!

TEAR INTO 'IM THIS TIME, YOU GUYS!

THE LONGER WE CAN KEEP 'IM FIGHTING, THE MORE HE PAYS US!

...AND THIS TIME WE OUGHTTA MAKE A BUNDLE!

YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU?

JUST AS SPIDER-MAN HAS NEVER LEARNED!

NO ONE SUSPECTS HOW POWERFUL I REALLY AM! NO ONE BELIEVES HOW FAST I CAN MOVE!

AND BY THE TIME THEY GRASP THE TRUTH... IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE THEM!

THWUP!

BOK!

MY GREATEST **ASSET** HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE FACT THAT THE WORLD MISTAKES MY MASSIVE **MUSCLES**...

...FOR MERE, BLUBBERY **FAT!**

YOU! A BLACK BELT **KARATE** FIGHTER..!

NOT EVEN **YOU** CAN DOWN THE **KINGPIN** WITH A SINGLE CHOP!

THAK!

AND **ONE** IS ALL YOU'LL HAVE A **CHANCE** FOR!

CRUSHER!! GET 'IM... WHILE HIS **BACK** IS TURN...

UNHHH!

NO ONE "GETS" THE KINGPIN!

NOT WHILE MY **SPEED** IS FAR **GREATER** THAN ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE!

ZAP!

FU MP!

YOU'RE **FIRED**... **ALL** OF YOU!

I TOLD YOU I WANTED A **WORKOUT**...

YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE ME A CHANCE TO WORK UP A **SWEAT!**

GET DRESSED AND GET **OUT!** I CAN'T STOMACH **LOSERS!**

WE'LL GO... WE'LL **GO!**

NOTHIN' WOULD MAKE US TANGLE... WITH **YOU**...AGAIN!

ROUND UP A *NEW* CREW FOR MY NEXT *WORKOUT!*

AND *NEXT* TIME GET *TWICE* AS MANY... TO GIVE ME SOME *COMPETITION!*

I'VE NEVER *SEEN* YOU THIS WAY BEFORE!

YOU WERE LIKE A HUMAN *BULLDOZER* IN THERE!

DID MY MERE MENTION OF *SPIDER-MAN'S NAME* AFFECT YOU LIKE THAT?

SPIDER-MAN!! EVERY TIME I *THINK* OF HIM, MY BLOOD BEGINS TO *BOIL!*

ONLY *HE* HAS EVER *THWARTED* ME!

BUT, AFTER I STEAL THE PRICELESS *CLAY TABLET* FROM ITS RESTING PLACE AT E.S.U...

THEN, HE AND I WILL HAVE... OUR FINAL RECKONING!

AND, SPEAKING OF OUR WOEBEGONE *WEB-SPINNER* WHO, ONLY LAST ISSUE, DEFEATED THE MANIACAL *MYSTERIO*---

I OUGHTTA HAVE MY *HEAD* EXAMINED!

I DIDN'T TAKE A SINGLE *PICTURE* OF MY LAST BATTLE!

WHICH MEANS I'VE NOTHING TO *SELL* TO JONAH'S RAG!

YEP, THAT'S *ME!* I RISKED MY FOOL *NECK* LIKE A GRINNING *IDIOT*---

AND ENDED UP WITH A BIG, FAT *ZERO!*

SO HERE I *AM*--- *BROKE,* AS USUAL!

WELL, AT LEAST I'LL GET SOME *SHUT-EYE* AND ---OH *NO!*

HARRY MUST HAVE *LOCKED* THE WINDOW!

NO WAY TO GET *IN* WITHOUT *BREAKING* IT!

AND *HARRY'S* SURE TO *HEAR*... UNLESS...

WELL, WHAT D'YA *KNOW?*

I'M IN *LUCK*... FOR ONCE!

HARRY'S WINDOW IS *OPEN*...AND HE'S NOT *IN* YET!

HE'S A *BROAD-MINDED* JOE AND ALL THAT...

BUT I WONDER HOW HE'D *FEEL* IF HE EVER LEARNED...

THAT HE'S BEEN SHARING HIS PAD WITH *SPIDER-MAN* ALL THESE MONTHS?

IT WOULD BE ALMOST AS BAD AS LEARNING HIS *FATHER* IS REALLY THE *GREEN GOBLIN!*

BUT LUCKILY, I'VE MANAGED TO KEEP *THAT* FROM THE POOR GUY, TOO!

BOY! THIS SECRET IDENTITY JAZZ CAN SURE BE A *STRAIN!*

THE NEXT MORNING, *PETER PARKER* REACHES THE CAMPUS AT GOOD OL' E.S.U., CHEERY AND UNWORRIED AS EVER...

THAT RUSH-HOUR *SUB-WAY* IS FOR THE *BIRDS!*

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE *AFFORDED* TO KEEP MY *BIKE!*

THERE OUGHTTA BE A SUPERHERO *UNION*...TO DEMAND A LIVING *WAGE!*

RATS! IF I FELT ANY *LOWER*, I'D BE *UNDER-GROUND!*

SAY, MAN... AREN'T YOU *PETER PARKER?*

IF YOU'RE NOT A *BILL COLLECTOR*, THE ANSWER'S *YES!*

MY *DAD* TOLD ME TO LOOK YOU UP!

YOUR DAD?

HE'S *JOE ROBERTSON*, CITY EDITOR OF THE *BUGLE!*

HE TOLD ME ONE OF HIS HOT-SHOT FREE-LANCE *SHUTTERBUGS* WAS A *B.M.O.C.* HERE!

B.M.O.C.!

I CAN'T EVEN GET MYSELF *ARRESTED!*

ANYWAY, ANY SON OF *ROBBIE ROBERTSON* CAN'T BE *ALL* BAD!---EVEN IF YOU *ARE* NAMELESS!

SORRY, PARKER! MY DRAFT CARD SAYS *RANDOLPH!*

PUT 'ER *THERE*, RANDY!

WHEN I CAN *FIND* THEM, MY FRIENDS CALL ME *PETE!*

AMONG *OTHER* THINGS!

LIKE HI, JOSH!
SAY HELLO TO PETE PARKER!
WE ALREADY DID THE BIT, RANDY! I WANNA ASK YOU SOMETHING, PARKER!
WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE EXHIBITION HALL ISSUE?
YOU'RE NOT REACHING ME, JOSH! WHAT ISSUE?
MAN! WE'RE TALKING TO A SPHINX!
GUESS I'VE BEEN, EH, OUT OF TOUCH, LATELY!

SINCE YOU'RE JUST BACK FROM THE MOON, I'LL CLUE YOU IN...
AFTER EXHIBITING THAT CLAY TABLET, THE "EX HALL" IS BEING TURNED INTO A PRIVATE DORM, FOR VISITING ALUMNI!
BUT, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THE STUDENTS!
NOW YOU'RE GETTING WITH IT, MAN!

WE'VE BEEN PETITIONING THE DEAN TO TURN THE HALL INTO A LOW-RENT DORM FOR NEEDY STUDENTS!
THE OLD GRADS ARE LOADED... THEY CAN BED DOWN IN HOTELS!
SO WHAT'S THE VERDICT?
WHAT D'YOU EXPECT? THE ANSWER WAS NO!
BUT NOT FOR LONG!

SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE BREWING!
JOSH IS SPOKESMAN FOR A LOT OF ANGRY CATS... AND I GUESS THEY'VE GOT A RIGHT TO BE!
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN ROBBIE'S SON WOULD BE A RIGHT GUY!
WISH I HAD TIME TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THIS THING!

GUESS WHO, GURU!
HEY... MARY JANE! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

MARY JANE! IS SHE THE FIRST GIRL YOU THOUGHT OF??
WELL, SHE'S MORE THE GUESS-WHOING TYPE!
SPIDEY-SENSE... WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I NEEDED YOU?

DON'T TELL ME I FINALLY FOUND THE MAGIC WORDS TO MAKE GORGEOUS GWENDOLYN JEALOUS!
NEGATIVE!! I DON'T HAVE A JEALOUS BONE IN MY BODY!
BUT MENTION HER AGAIN, AND WATCH THE ROOF FALL IN!

AND, SPEAKING OF FALLING ROOFS, LET'S SEE WHAT JOLLY JONAH JAMESON IS UP TO NOW...

THAT BLASTED SPIDER-MAN CAME OUT ON TOP AGAIN!
THE POLICE JUST REPORTED THAT HE BEAT MYSTERIO!
ROBBIE! I'M NOT BORING YOU, AM I?
CITY EDITOR
HUH? OH---NO, J.J.---
I WAS JUST THINKING!

THINKING? DO THAT ON YOUR OWN TIME!
I EXPECT MY CITY EDITOR TO COME UP WITH NEWS!!
YOU'VE ALREADY MADE THAT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR!
WHY DIDN'T WE GET THE STORY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN'S BATTLE WITH MYSTERIO UNTIL IT WAS ALL OVER?
BE REASONABLE, JJ! NO OTHER PAPER GOT IT, EITHER!
AND WHERE WAS PARKER, EH? ANSWER ME THAT! HOW COME HE DIDN'T BRING ME ANY PIX?
CONSIDERING THE WAY YOU TREAT THAT KID...
...IT'S A WONDER YOU EVER SEE HIM AT ALL!
I KNEW IT! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS... WHEN YOU'RE TOO GENEROUS...TOO EASY-GOING!
PEOPLE START CRITICIZING YOU!
WHEN WILL I LEARN..??
IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE A LIVING DOLL!!
MY OWN CITY EDITOR ...TAKING PARKER'S SIDE AGAINST THE SWEETEST PUBLISHER IN TOWN!
WHY, OH WHY WAS I BORN TO BE A MARTYR?
POOR JAMESON! HE'S NEVER HAPPY... UNLESS HE'S MISERABLE!
BUT, HE'LL GET OVER IT SOON ENOUGH!
I WISH THAT I COULD GET OVER THIS FEELING OF APPREHENSION...
IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT WAS BUGGING RANDY!
HE MEANS SO MUCH...TO HIS MOTHER...AND TO ME!
FOR HER SAKE... AND HIS...
I MUST NOT FAIL!
SOMETIME LATER, AT THE MODEST HOME WHICH OUR HERO'S AUNT SHARES WITH ANNA WATSON...
PETER! AND GWEN!
COME IN! THIS WILL BE THE BEST POSSIBLE MEDICINE FOR ANNA!
HOW IS SHE FEELING, MRS. WATSON?
COME IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!
MUSTN'T SHOUT LIKE THAT, AUNT MAY! MUSTN'T SAP YOUR STRENGTH!
I FEEL STRONG AS A LION WHEN I SEE YOU, DEAR!
HE HAS THE OPPOSITE EFFECT ON ME!
HE MAKES ME FEEL WEAK AS A KITTEN!

YOU TWO HAVE BEEN ...SEEING QUITE A *BIT* OF EACH OTHER!

NOT NEARLY *ENOUGH* TO SUIT *ME!*

OH DEAR! I DIDN'T MEAN TO *EMBARRASS* YOU, GWENDOLYNE!

NEVER MIND *ME,* MRS. PARKER!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS... I HOPE YOU DON'T *DISAPPROVE!*

DISAPPROVE OF ME LATCHING ONTO THE BRIGHTEST, BOUNCIEST, MOST *BEAUTIFUL* BLONDE IN CREATION?

THAT'LL BE THE DAY!

YOU TWO SOUND AS THOUGH... IT MIGHT BE EVEN MORE *SERIOUS*...THAN I THOUGHT!

ALL I CAN SAY IS... YOU'VE MADE A SILLY, SENTIMENTAL OLD LADY...VERY, VERY *HAPPY!*

NO *WONDER* YOU'RE SO SLIGHTLY *SPECIAL,* MR. PARKER!

ANYONE *LUCKY* ENOUGH TO HAVE AN AUNT LIKE *THAT!!*

FUNNY...I USED TO THINK OF MYSELF AS THE ORIGINAL *HARD-LUCK CHARLIE!*

BUT NOW...I'M NOT SO *SURE!*

THAT WAS A *LOVELY* BOX OF CANDY THEY BROUGHT YOU, MAY!

MAY?!! WHAT *IS* IT, DEAR? WHAT'S *WRONG?*

YOU LOOK SO *PALE!* YOU SHOULD HAVE *TOLD* THEM... TO CALL THE *DOCTOR!*

NO...I *COULDN'T!*

I DIDN'T WANT... TO SPOIL...THEIR *HAPPINESS!*

BUT, ALAS...THE *HAPPINESS* OF PETER PARKER IS DESTINED TO SUFFER A RUDE *INTRUSION* IN ANY EVENT!

LET'S ACCOMPANY HIM TO *CAMPUS,* THE VERY NEXT MORNING...

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER *DEMONSTRATION!* THE BIGGEST ONE *YET!*

MUST BE WHAT *RANDY* WAS TALKING ABOUT!

MATTER OF FACT, THERE HE IS *NOW!*

HI, PETE! COME ON *OVER,* MAN!

STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR A *LOW RENT DORM*

RENT DORM

MUST BE SAVED

IF YOU CAN SPARE THE *TIME,* PARKER!

WE'RE GONNA **CLOSE** THIS PLACE DOWN TIGHTER THAN A **DRUM** TILL WE GET WHAT WE WANT!

NOW HERE'S WHAT **YOU** CAN DO---LINE UP ALL THE CATS YOU **KNOW** AND GET THEM TO CONTACT ALL OF **THEIR** FRIENDS!

HEY, **WHOA! SLOW DOWN** FOR A SEC, RANDY!

I FEEL LIKE I JUST ARRIVED SMACK-DAB IN THE **MIDDLE** OF A HITCH-COCK WHO-DONE-IT!

THEN, AS SOON AS WE HAVE ENOUGH **PROTESTERS** TO REALLY **ROCK** THE JOINT, WE MARCH ON THE **EX HALL!**

WE DEMAND LC

LOOK, WHITEY... HOW **MUCH** DO YOU HAVETA KNOW?

THE SCHOOL'S TURNING THE **EX HALL** OVER TO THE **ESTABLISHMENT**--- BUT IT BELONGS TO **US**--- AND WE **WANT** IT!

OKAY, THAT'S **YOUR** SIDE OF THE STORY! WHAT DOES THE **DEAN** SAY?

AND YOU JUST **KNOW** WE'RE GONNA **GET** IT!

I'M STILL IN THE **DARK** ABOUT ALL THIS!

WE AIN'T **BUYIN'** WHAT **HE** SAYS!

FROM NOW ON, **WE** DO THE TALKING!

HEY! WHAT'S THE **BIT?** WHERE ARE YOU **GOING?** WE'VE GOT SIGNS ENOUGH FOR **EVERYBODY!**

ANYONE CAN PAINT A **SIGN,** MISTER! **THAT** DOESN'T MAKE YOU **RIGHT!**

THEN GO **ON... CUT OUT!**

YOU'RE TOO **CHICKEN** TO GET INVOLVED!

ESU PHEW!

DO OR DIE THE ORM

LOW REN DORM

WELL, BROTHER PARKER, YOU DID IT **AGAIN!**

MY SYMPATHIES ARE **ALL** WITH THE **KIDS** DOWN THERE... BUT JUST BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE **ANYONE** TO PUSH ME, I FLEW OFF THE HANDLE AGAIN!

I CAN **LIVE** WITH IT IF **JOSH** THINKS I'M NOWHERE...

BUT THAT LOOK ON **RANDY'S** FACE REALLY SHOOK ME UP!

I GUESS THAT'S THE **TABLET** THEY'RE EXHIBITING HERE!

IF ANYONE EVER DECIPHERS **THAT** INSCRIPTION, HE'LL HAVE IT MADE FOR **LIFE!**

BUT IT SURE IS A **SHAME** THEY'RE TURNING THIS PLACE OVER TO THE **ALUMNI** AFTER THE EXHIBIT!

WE REALLY **NEED** A LOW-RENT DORM ON CAMPUS...

...AND **THIS** WOULD BE THE **PERFECT** PLACE!

I WONDER **WHY** THE DEAN'S SO **OBSTINATE?**

A SHORT TIME **LATER...**

NO SENSE **WAITING** ANY LONGER!

WE'VE GOT EVERYONE WE **NEED!**

EVERY-BODY GRAB A **SIGN!**

THIS IS IT!

DO OR DIE FOR THE ORM

ESU PHEW!

HEY! DOESN'T ROBERTSON'S FATHER WORK FOR THE DAILY BUGLE?

YOU SAY THAT AGAIN, AND I'LL...!

LOOK... COOL IT, Y'HEAR?

WE GOT A JOB TO DO!

WHO WANTS THE SON OF AN UNCLE TOM MARCHIN' HERE WITH US?

RANDY'S A SOUL-BROTHER ...AND DON'T FOR-GET IT!

LET'S GO! ON TO THE HALL!

DO OR DIE FOR D!!!!

ESU DHEW

ESU PHEW!

WE DEMAN LOW REN DOR

ESU PHEW!

EVERYONE LISTEN! THE ONLY WAY TO GET THAT DORM IS TO MAKE IT BIG!

WE NEED THE PAPERS --TV..RADIO ...TO COVER THIS THING!

WE GOTTA SHAKE UP THE WHOLE ESTABLISH-MENT!

THAT MEANS WE GOTTA TAKE OVER THE HALL!

DO OR DIE

C'MON! EVERYBODY IN! IF WE MOVE FAST ENOUGH ---IT'LL ALL BE OVER BEFORE THEY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!

ESU PHEW

NOBODY LEAVES TILL WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A DORM!

AT THAT MOMENT, BACK AT THE BUGLE...

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO...WATCH TELEVISION ON MY TIME?!!

SIMMER DOWN, J.J! YOU WANTED A STORY, DIDN'T YOU?

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON!

IT'S A RIOT ---AT E.S.U.!

I'VE ALREADY DONE IT, MISTER!

WHY DIDN'T SOMEBODY TELL ME? WE'VE GOTTA COVER IT... FAST!

AND NOW... IF YOU'LL STAND ASIDE...THIS IS ONE STORY I'M COVERING MYSELF!

QUICK! ALERT OUR MOBILE NEWS CARS ---SEND OUR BEST MEN...

MY BOY'S A STUDENT ON THAT CAMPUS!

BUT, OTHER EYES ARE ALSO WITNESSING THE PROCEEDINGS... WITH MORE THAN CASUAL INTEREST...

HMMMM... A MOST FORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT!

WILSON! COME HERE!

I BELIEVE I HAVE FOUND THE MOMENT WE WERE SEEKING!

ASSEMBLE OUR BEST MEN!

AS SOON AS IT GETS DARK...WE MOVE!

WHILE, BACK AT E.S.U., THINGS GROW TENSER BY THE MINUTE...

LOOK, WHATEVER YOU'RE DEMONSTRATIN' ABOUT AIN'T NO CONCERN OF OURS!

ALL I KNOW IS WE'RE PAID TO GUARD THIS TABLET... AND NOBODY GETS NEAR IT!

HEY, GO EASY, MISTER! THEY'RE NOT PUBLIC ENEMIES!

KEEP OUTTA THIS, KID! WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO!

SAY! THOSE PRIVATE GUARDS GAVE ME AN IDEA!

I DON'T BUY IT, JOSH! THAT'S PLAIN STEALING!

IF WE COULD GET OUR HANDS ON THAT TABLET, THEN THEY'D HAVE TO LISTEN TO US!

LOOK, MAN-- ...YOU HEARD WHAT THEY CALLED YOUR FATHER!

DON'T DO IT, JOSH!

RANDY'S RIGHT... AND YOU KNOW IT!

NOW MOVE ON, ALL OF YOU!

HEY...WHAT'RE YOU DOING? PUT THAT GUN AWAY!

YOU'RE NOT SCARIN' US, BIG MAN!

RELAX! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO HANDLE 'EM!

FIRE THAT CANNON AND THEY'LL TEAR THIS PLACE APART!

NOBODY'S FIRING ANYTHING...JUST BREAK IT UP!

EVERYONE'S TOO UPTIGHT! IN A SPOT LIKE THIS, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!

IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF NOBODY GETS HURT BEFORE IT'S OVER!

BUT, WHAT CAN I... WHAT CAN ANYBODY ...DO ABOUT IT NOW?

AT A TIME LIKE THIS...EVEN SPIDEY WOULD BE HELPLESS!

BUT, AS LONG AS I'M *HERE*...THERE'S NO SENSE WASTING TIME...

...NOT WHEN I CAN BE GETTING SOME EXCLUSIVE *PIX*... TO SELL TO JOLLY *JONAH!*

AND *BOY*...CAN MRS. PARKER'S NEPHEW USE THE *BREAD!*

BUT, ON THE *OTHER* SIDE OF THE BUILDING...

STOP RIGHT *HERE!*

THEY'RE ALL TOO *BUSY* TO NOTICE US!

SO *THIS* IS WHAT A COLLEGE LOOKS LIKE!

BIG DEAL!

TAKE YOUR PLACES, *ALL* OF YOU!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR LITTLE *DIVERSION* TO BEGIN!

AND, WHEN IT *DOES*, YOU'LL GO INTO ACTION LIKE A WELL-OILED *MACHINE*...

...OR ELSE YOU'LL ANSWER TO *ME!*

THAT'S IT! EVERYONE WILL THINK THE *DEMONSTRATORS* WERE RESPONSIBLE!

FLOOM!

NOW! WHILE EVERYONE RUSHES TO CHECK THE *EXPLOSION*, WE'LL HAVE A CLEAR FIELD FOR *OURSELVES!*

THE *TABLET* WILL BE SAFELY IN MY *HANDS* BEFORE THE FLAMES DIE DOWN!

THUMP! THOOM!

KRAKK!

GET BACK--- ALL OF YOU!

STAY OUT OF MY WAY, AND NO ONE WILL BE HARMED!

WH---WHO'S THAT?

I DON'T KNOW... ---BUT HE TORE THE DOOR OFF ITS HINGES... BARE-HANDED!!

I RECOGNIZE HIM---!

HE'S THE KING-PIN!

BUT... WHAT'S HE DOING HERE??

STAND ASIDE, SONNY!

YOU CAN HAVE YER KINDERGARDEN BACK LATER ON--- WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH IT!

TO THE EXHIBITION CHAMBER...QUICKLY!

WHEN I GIVE THE WORD... PREPARE TO USE YOUR GAS MASKS!

THUMP! THPOOM!

THE KINGPIN!!

WITH HIM ON THE SCENE --- NOBODY'S SAFE!

BUT, WHERE DOES HE FIGURE IN??

AND WHY DID HE MENTION GAS MASKS?

HE'S COMING TOWARDS ME!

I'VE GOT TO ACT LIKE I'M NOBODY SPECIAL!

HEY! WATCH IT, MISTER! WHERE DO YOU THINK--??

SHUT UP! I'VE NO TIME TO WASTE ON JUVENILES!

THUD!

STRANGE! FOR A MOMENT THERE... I GOT A FEELING OF POWER---OF RAW STRENGTH---

FAR MORE THAN I'D EXPECT FROM A CALLOW, COWERING STUDENT!

I'M TOO KEYED-UP! I'M STARTING TO IMAGINE THINGS!

HOW CAN ANY SCRAWNY, SIMPERING YOUTH BE WORTHY OF THE KINGPIN'S ATTENTION!

THAT LOOK HE GAVE ME... WHAT DID IT MEAN?

THE TABLET! IT CAN'T BE MUCH FURTHER!

HOLD IT! KEEP THAT GUY AWAY FROM HERE!
HE'LL FOUL UP THE WHOLE DEMONSTRA-TION!
RANDY... NO!!
HE DOESN'T REALIZE THE DANGER!
NOW I'VE GOT TO CHANGE TO SPIDER-MAN!
YOU YOUNG FOOLS HAVE ALREADY SERVED MY PURPOSE!
NOW STAND ASIDE... IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES!
WE'VE GOTTA DO IT, RANDY!
THEY'RE ARMED!
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED IT SOONER..!
IT MUST BE THE TABLET HE'S AFTER!
AND, IF I KNOW THE KINGPIN...
HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET IT!
THE KIDS SEE ME! THEY THINK I'M AIMING TO PUT THEM DOWN!
LOOK! FIRST THE KINGPIN... NOW SPIDER-MAN!
BUT THEY WON'T STOP US NOW!
STUDENT POWER!
ESU PHEW!
HAVEN'T TIME TO ARGUE WITH THEM...
NOT WITH THAT OVER-STUFFED KILLER ON THE LOOSE JUST AHEAD!
STAY OUT OF THIS, GANG!
FROM HERE ON IN, IT'S BETWEEN THE KINGPIN AND ME!
WE DEMAND
15

BUT DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE!

WARN THE *POLICE* THAT THE *TABLET'S* IN DANGER!

GO ON... *MOVE!* CLEAR THE *HALL!*

I SHOULDN'T HAVE *LISTENED* TO ANYONE!

I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO *STOP* THE KINGPIN!

YEAH--- AND WE'D HAVE BEEN PICKIN' UP YOUR *PIECES!*

WHILE *OUTSIDE* THE BUILDING ---

DON'T WORRY, MR. ROBERTSON! WE'LL SOON HAVE EVERY-THING UNDER *CONTROL!*

DON'T *WORRY?* WHILE MY *SON* IS IN THERE?

AND, AT THE *TABLET DISPLAY ROOM*...

IT'S THE *KINGPIN*--- LEADING HIS *HOODS!*

THEY'RE AFTER THE *TABLET!*

AND THEY'RE ALL WEARING ---*GAS MASKS!*

DON'T MOVE! I'LL GIVE THE ORDERS NOW!

JUST GOT MY *CAMERA* SET UP IN TIME!

HE'S STARTING TO FIRE *GAS PELLETS!*

BUT, IT'S A *BIG* ROOM--- IT'LL TAKE A *LOT* OF GAS, TO DO THE TRICK!

AND I'LL MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T FIRE *ANOTHER* BURST!

THWIK!

WHA--?!

SORRY, CHUBBS!

IF YOU WANT THAT *TABLET,* YOU'LL HAVE TO GET IT THE *HARD WAY!*

SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT'S *WITH* YOU, MISTER?

WHEN I *HIT* A FELLA, I EXPECT HIM TO STAY *DOWN!*

EVERY TIME I *FACE* HIM, IT'S A NEW *SHOCK* ---REALIZING HOW *POWERFUL* HE REALLY IS!

SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK A MAN LIKE *ME* IS DEPENDENT ONLY UPON DEVICES LIKE *GAS?*

THANKS TO YOUR *INTERFERENCE*, I'LL SIMPLY RESORT TO... *BRUTE FORCE!*

THE *BRUTE* PART OF IT IS OKAY---

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO *FORCE*, THAT'S *MY* DEPARTMENT, TUBBY!

WOK!

GUESS AGAIN, YOU ARROGANT *CLOD!*

=UUMPHHH!=

THE MAN DOESN'T *LIVE* WHO CAN ENDURE MY *BEAR HUG* WITHOUT *BLACKING OUT!*

NO PUNY *SPIDER-POWER* WILL SERVE TO SAVE YOU FROM ME *NOW!*

ANY-ONE *ELSE* WOULD BE A *GONER* BY NOW--!

BUT I'M STILL *STRONGER* THAN HE SUSPECTS!

THERE! I'VE *OWED* YOU THIS FOR MANY *MONTHS!*

AND THE KING-PIN *ALWAYS* PAYS HIS DEBTS!

SPIDER-MAN TRIED TO *HELP!*

CAN'T STAND *BY* WHILE HE'S TAKING HIS LUMPS!

HOMP!

WHAT'S *THIS?* *ANOTHER* PUNY FLEA--- TRYING TO STOP THE *KINGPIN!*

YOU CAN CALL ME WHAT YOU *WANT...*

BUT *SOME-BODY'S* GOTTA TACKLE YOU--- AND IT MIGHT AS WELL BE *ME!*

WHOP!

ONE FUMBLING *STUDENT* IS VIRTUALLY BENEATH MY *NOTICE!*

≡*MMMPPHHH!*≡

HAVE TO ATTACK *NOW*... BEFORE HE HURTS *RANDY!*

HERE, FATSO---CHEW ON *THIS* AWHILE!

THEN, WITH BLISTERING, MACHINE-GUN *SPEED,* THE AMAZING WEB-SPINNER UNLEASHES A DEVASTATING *BARRAGE* OF BLUDGEONING BLOWS...

---UNTIL ---

THAT'LL HOLD HIM FOR A WHILE!

NOW WHAT ABOUT *YOU,* FELLA! ARE YOU *HURT?*

I...I GUESS ..I'LL LIVE!

WHICH IS MORE THAN *SPIDER-MAN* WILL BE ABLE TO SAY!

THIS TIME I'LL SHOW HIM NO MERCY!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GOING FOR HIS CANE BLASTER!

HA!

THE MARBLE WALL--- GONNA FALL ON RANDY!

CAN'T GET HIM AWAY IN TIME---

BUT AT LEAST I CAN SHIELD HIM---WITH MY BODY!

HERE IT COMES!

KRRAK!

ITS WEIGHT WILL BURY US BOTH!

SECONDS LATER---

EVEN IF HE STILL LIVES... BENEATH THAT RUBBLE---

NEVER AGAIN WILL SPIDER-MAN THINK HIMSELF A MATCH FOR THE INDEFATIGABLE KINGPIN!

THE VICTORY IS MINE!

MY WORST ENEMY HAS FALLEN AT LAST---

AND THE PRIZE I SOUGHT ---THE PRICELESS CLAY TABLET... IS MINE!

NEVER HAVE I KNOWN SUCH TOTAL TRIUMPH!

TRIUMPH, PERHAPS! BUT TOTAL? LET'S NOT BET ON IT...!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN WRESTLING A STEAM-ROLLER ...AND THE ROLLER WON!

BUT ANYWAY, RANDY'S OKAY!

THAT GUY HAS GUTS ENOUGH FOR A REGIMENT!

WAKE UP, FELLA! THE PARTY'S OVER!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S THE KINGPIN? HE.. HE MUST HAVE... GOTTEN AWAY!

AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I BETTER DO... BEFORE THE BOYS IN BLUE TRY TO GRAB ME!

THERE'S SPIDER-MAN ---AND ONE OF THE KIDS!

I GOT *OUT* JUST IN *TIME!*

HAII

WELL, WELL ...LOOK WHO'S TRYING TO MAKE A *GET-AWAY!*

BUT, BEFORE SPIDEY CAN POUNCE, HE *NOTICES...*

THE POLICE... *ROUNDING UP* THE PROTEST LEADERS!

THEY THINK THEY WERE IN LEAGUE WITH THE *KINGPIN!*

STAND BACK... ALL OF YOU!

THESE KIDS HAD *NOTHING* TO DO WITH THE THEFT OF THAT TABLET!

THAT GOES FOR *YOU,* TOO, MR. ROBERTSON!

OKAY! OKAY! THEY'LL HAVE THEIR DAY IN *COURT!*

DON'T *WORRY,* BOYS! I'LL SEE THAT YOU HAVE THE BEST *LEGAL AID* AVAILABLE!

THAT *DAD* OF YOURS IS A LOT OF *MAN,* RANDY!

I KNOW YOU DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS *RIGHT,* SON!

TELL ME SOMETHIN' I DON'T *KNOW* JOSH!

I'LL BE *BEHIND* YOU ALL THE WAY!

UNTIL THIS IS *CLEARED UP,* WE'LL HOLD THEM FOR *ILLEGAL POSSESSION* AND *PROPERTY DAMAGE!*

OKAY--- INTO THE *VAN* WITH THEM!

RANDY'LL BE *ALL RIGHT* NOW!

AND THEY'LL *ALL* HAVE A CHANCE TO *COOL OFF!*

WHICH JUST LEAVES *ME* WITH SOME *UNFINISHED BUSINESS!*

BUT IT WON'T *STAY* UNFINISHED FOR *LONG!*

BOSS! IT'S THE *WEB-SLINGER!* HE'S *TAILIN'* US!

I'LL LEAD HIM INTO A *TRAP* FROM WHICH *NO ONE* CAN ESCAPE!

112TH

115TH STH

20

NEXT:

IN THE KING-PIN'S CLUTCHES!

SPIDER-MAN
12¢ IND.
69 FEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ROMITA

MISSION: CRUSH THE KINGPIN!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

MISSION: CRUSH THE KINGPIN!

PRODUCED BY:

STAN (THE MAN) LEE, SCRIPT!

JOHN (RING-A-DING) ROMITA, STORYBOARDS!

JIM (MADMAN) MOONEY, ILLUSTRATION!

SAM (SLEEPY) ROSEN, LETTERER!

THE KINGPIN'S HIDING **SOMEWHERE** IN THIS AREA!

AND, WITH MY **SPIDER SENSE**, IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO **FIND** HIM!

I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH STEALING THAT PRICELESS TABLET FROM THE CAMPUS' EXHIBITION HALL!

...ESPECIALLY SINCE MR. ROBERTSON'S SON, RANDY, AND THE OTHER PROTEST LEADERS...

...ARE BEING BOOKED ON CHARGES OF AIDING THE KINGPIN IN HIS THEFT!

NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT THE TABLET IS SO PRICELESS, THAT FATSO CAN SELL IT TO ANY NATION HE CHOOSES!*

UH-OH! SPIDEY SENSE IS STARTING TO TINGLE!

I'M GETTING CLOSE!

*HOW'S THAT FOR A SNEAKY WAY TO SUMMARIZE OUR LAST ISH? ...SUBTLE STAN.

AND, JUST A FEW FATEFUL YARDS AWAY, WE FIND...

YOU DID IT, KINGPIN!

IT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS FOR YOU TO USE THE STUDENT PROTEST DEMONSTRATION AS A COVER FOR STEALING THE TABLET!

BUT WHAT ABOUT SPIDER-MAN, BOSS?

COULD YOU EXPECT ANY LESS...FROM ME?

YEAH! THE BLASTED WEB-SPINNER IS STILL ON OUR TRAIL!

FORGET SPIDER-MAN! LOOK AT THE PRIZE I'VE WON!

THIS ANCIENT CLAY TABLET IS OLDER THAN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS!

WHOEVER DECIPHERS IT WILL LEARN THE GREATEST SECRETS OF ALL TIME!

AND IT'S MINE! MINE! MINE!

BUT I *STILL* DON'T UNDER-STAND!

WHY DID YOU ALLOW *SPIDER-MAN* TO FOLLOW US??

BECAUSE I *WANT* HIM TO FIND ME!

HOW *ELSE* CAN I *DESTROY* HIM?

IT WILL SAVE ME THE *TROUBLE* OF HUNTING *HIM!*

THE FOOL IS AS *YET* UNAWARE... THAT *I* AM HIS *MASTER!*

BUT THE WEB-SLINGER IS *TRICKY...*

WHAT DOES IT *MATTER?* AM *I* NOT MORE *POWER-FUL?*

SPIDER-MAN WOULDN'T HAVE A *CHANCE* AGAINST THE BOSS!

RIGHT! HE'LL MAKE *MINCE-MEAT* OUTTA HIM!

THE KINGPIN AIN'T SCARED'A *NOBODY!*

---EXCEPT HIS *MISSUS!*

I HEARD THAT!

WHA--- WHAT'D I *SAY,* BOSS??!

YOU MENTIONED MY WIFE!

ZAP!

NOBODY MENTIONS HER... *EVER...* DO YOU HEAR??

NOBODY!

GET *RID* OF HIM! HE'S *WASHED UP* HERE!

HE'S *LUCKY...* I LET HIM *LIVE!*

WAIT *THERE*, WILSON! I'M GOING TO TO STORE THE *TABLET!*

BUT, WHAT ABOUT... *SPIDER-MAN?*

STOP *CRINGING*, YOU SPINELESS *WORM!*

I'LL BE *BACK* BEFORE HE ARRIVES!

TO *THINK* THAT WORTHLESS *GUTTER RAT* WOULD DARE TO MENTION MY *WIFE!!*

BUT, I HAD BEST NOT *DWELL* UPON IT!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR ME TO FLY INTO A *RAGE!*

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I MUST HAVE MY *WITS* ABOUT ME!

THE DOOR TO MY *VAULT* REQUIRES NO *LOCK* WHICH SOME PETTY THIEF CAN ONE DAY *OPEN!*

ONLY THE *KINGPIN'S* NAKED *STRENGTH* CAN ACCOMPLISH SUCH A *FEAT!*

BUT, WHY SPEND ANY MORE TIME LISTENING TO OL' K.P. *TALK* TO HIMSELF WHEN WE COULD BE LISTENING TO *J. JONAH JAMESON* INSTEAD..?

THE *BUGLE* WANTS TO KNOW IF THOSE YOUNG *ANARCHISTS* WILL BE *PUNISHED*, STACY!

THAT'S A *STRONG* WORD FOR A GROUP OF YOUTHFUL *DEMONSTRATORS*, JAMESON!

THEY HELPED THE *KINGPIN* STEAL THAT *TABLET*...AND YOU *KNOW* IT!

I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T YOUR *INSIGHT*...OR *PERCEPTION!*

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE PRECINCT *INTERROGATION ROOM*, WE FIND---

IF YOU BOYS WEREN'T PART OF THE *KINGPIN'S* PLAN ---

THEN *WHY* DID YOU *BOTH* PICK THAT SAME MOMENT TO BE AT THE *EXHIBITION HALL?*

EASY, SON! THE LIEUTENANT IS JUST TRYING TO DO HIS *JOB!*

WE WERE FIGHTING FOR *STUDENTS' RIGHTS*... AND THAT'S *ALL!!*

DON'T MAKE *US* YOUR FALL GUYS!

WHAT ABOUT **SPIDER-MAN**, RANDY? WHERE DOES **HE** FIT INTO ALL OF THIS?

I **TOLD** YOU, DAD! HE FOUGHT THE **KINGPIN**! HE SAVED MY **LIFE**!

OKAY, THEN! LETS GET BACK TO **YOU**..!

HOW'D YOU GET **MIXED-UP** IN THIS WHOLE THING?

I DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS **RIGHT**, DAD...LIKE YOU ALWAYS **SAID** I SHOULD!

WE WANT THE HALL CONVERTED TO A **LOW-RENT DORM**... FOR NEEDY STUDENTS!

BUT THE DEAN WOULDN'T **LISTEN** TO US!

A **PROTEST** IS **ONE** THING!

BUT, THE **DAM-AGE** YOU CAUSED..!

BUT DON'T **WORRY**, SON! YOUR MOM AND I WILL STAND **BEHIND** YOU!

WE WON'T LET YOU **DOWN**...WHEN YOU **NEED** US!

I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT ...HOW TO **BREAK** IT TO HER!

YOU'RE TALKING...AS THOUGH I DID ...SOMETHING **AWFUL**!

DON'T YOU **SEE**? CAN'T YOU EVEN **UNDERSTAND**? I **HAVE** TO BE TOUGHER... I **HAVE** TO BE MORE MILITANT ...BECAUSE OF **YOU**!

YOU'VE BECOME PART OF THE **ESTABLISHMENT**... THE **WHITE MAN'S** ESTABLISHMENT!

I'VE GOTTA LIVE THAT **DOWN**!

BUT ISN'T THIS WHAT WE ALL **WANT**... WHAT WE'RE ALL **FIGHTING** FOR, BOY?

TO **MAKE** IT ON OUR **OWN**? TO PROVE WE'RE AS **GOOD**... OR **BETTER**...THAN **ANY-ONE**??

I DUNNO! I DUNNO **WHAT** TO THINK!

LOOK, MAN...**MAYBE** YOU'RE AN OKAY CAT... BUT WE GOTTA DO THINGS **OUR** WAY!

WE AIN'T NEVER GONNA GET **NOWHERE**... UNTIL WE KINDA SHAKE WHITEY **UP** A LITTLE!

HOW'S A MAN TO KNOW... WHAT'S **RIGHT**?

I WISH... I COULD **ANSWER** THAT, SON!

LISTEN! SOMETHING'S GOING **ON**... OUTSIDE!

COOK AN EGG... COOK YOUR GOOSE! TURN THE DEMONSTRATORS LOOSE!

C'MON, BREAK IT UP...**BREAK IT UP**!

GOWAN **HOME**, KIDS! THE PARTY'S **OVER**!

THIS WON'T HELP! YOU'RE ALL MAKING THINGS WORSE!
GETTING OURSELVES ARRESTED WON'T GIVE US THE LOW-RENT DORM WE NEED!
OKAY, BEAUTIFUL! GOT ANY BETTER IDEAS?
HEY! IT'S GWEN STACY!
WHERE'S YOUR CHICKEN BOY FRIEND, LADY?
LET OUR LEADERS GO
REL
HE HASN'T THE GUTS TO TAKE A STAND WITH US!

YOU SAID PETER PARKER DOESN'T HAVE GUTS?!!
YEAH ... IT'S PARKER I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!
...AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!
YOU CRUMMY, DIM-WITTED LOUDMOUTH!
AND STILL MAKE TEN OF YOU!
HE COULD BE HALF THE MAN HE IS...
SAY, TAKE IT EASY, LITTLE GIRL!
YOU DON'T WANNA BE ACCUSED OF CIVILIAN BRUTALITY!
POLICE
OH, GWEN STACY! I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
I'M GOING IN...TO SEE MY FATHER!
REL

GWEN! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE!
WHY NOT? I MAY BE YOUR DAUGHTER... BUT I'M STILL A CO-ED AT E.S.U.!
WHOA THERE, YOUNG LADY!
JUST SOME FEATHER-BRAINED LUNKHEAD OUTSIDE!
WHAT'S GOT YOU ALL STEAMED UP?
DID HE GET FRESH WITH YOU?
HIM? HE WOULDN'T DARE!
NO...HE SAID SOME ROTTEN THINGS...ABOUT PETER!
ARE YOU UPSET... BECAUSE YOU THINK THEY MAY BE TRUE?
I... WISH I KNEW!

BUT NOW, IT'S **WEB-SLINGING TIME** AGAIN...

THIS IS **IT!**

THE WAY I'M **TINGLING...**

HE **HAS** TO BE IN **THERE!**

IT'LL TAKE **MORE** THAN STEEL SHUTTERS TO...

NO! WAIT..!!

MY SPIDEY SENSE IS TINGLING **TOO** VIOLENTLY!

SOMETHING'S **WRONG!**

WHY DID HE LEAVE SUCH AN **EASY** TRAIL TO FOLLOW?

THE KINGPIN'S TOO **SMART** FOR THAT!

UNLESS ...IT'S A **TRAP!**

WHILE, IN THE DARKENED ROOM INSIDE...

BOSS, DO YOU THINK...?

QUIET, YOU FOOL!

HE'LL **BE** HERE ANY MINUTE!

JUST **STAND** THERE... AND **WAIT!**

I PROMISE YOU WON'T BE... DISAPPOINTED!

THE SHUTTERS... THEY'RE OPENIN'!!

LOOK! THERE HE IS!

IT'S HIM! IT'S THE WALL-CRAWLER! WE GOT 'IM AT LAST!

YOU WERE RIGHT, KINGPIN!

IT WORKED OUT... JUST LIKE YOU SAID!

WAIT... YOU TRIGGER-HAPPY FOOLS!

HOLD YOUR FIRE!

TOO LATE!

WE ALREADY GOT 'IM!

I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO DOWN HIM MYSELF!

YOUR PURPOSE WAS MERELY TO PREVENT HIS ESCAPE!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D PANIC AND...

WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?!!

IT... IT AIN'T HIM!

IT'S JUST... A WEBBED-UP DUMMY!

THWIP!

JUST WHOM ARE YOU CALLING A DUMMY?

LOOK OUT!

IF THAT WAS MEANT AS A WARNING TO ME, I'M ALL SHOOK-UP!

BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TA DO IT!

SINCE IT'S TIME FOR FUN 'N GAMES.

LET'S ALL DROP OUR POP-GUNS!

THEY'RE LIABLE TO GIVE YOU CALLOUSED TRIGGER-FINGERS!

NOT TO MENTION DISHPAN HANDS!

DON'T BE IMPATIENT, K.P.! I'LL GET TO YOU IN A MINUTE!

...SOON AS YOUR LITTLE CHEERING SECTION GOES SLEEPY-BYE!

DON'T WORRY, SPIDER-MAN!... I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT TO RUSH IT NOW!

UNHHH! HOW...DID HE MANAGE ...TO MOVE SO FAST??

HIS GRIP... LIKE BEING CAUGHT...IN TWO GIANT, LIVING VISES!

DURING ALL OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS!..

YOU ALWAYS MANAGED TO ESCAPE THRU SOME LUCKY ACCIDENT!

THE GOOEY SUBSTANCE... IS STICKING... TO MY BARE SKIN!

IT'S WHAT HE WANTED!

BUT THIS TIME I SHALL EXERCISE FAR MORE CAUTION...

THIS TIME WE BATTLE... TO THE END!

HE'S GETTING SET... TO CHARGE!!

LOOK AT YOU...YOU PUNY PARODY OF A PRESENT-DAY SUPER-HERO!

HE'S TOSSING ME TOWARDS THE WEB DUMMY!

AND NOW... WHILE YOU'RE HOPELESSLY CAUGHT IN A WEB OF YOUR OWN MAKING ---

I'LL SET YOU FREE... IN MY OWN... WHA..?!!

YOU SNIVELLING, SCRAWNY SCARECROW!! YOU'RE ONLY PROLONGING YOUR ULTIMATE ANNIHILATION!

THOOM!

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP DODGING ME?

FACE IT, FATS... I'VE GOT TO KEEP DODGING YOU...

...AT LEAST TILL YOU CHANGE YOUR MOUTHWASH!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT FAT FELLAS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE JOLLY!

THEY OUGHTTA TOSS YOU OUT OF THE UNION!

A JESTER TILL THE END, EH?

WELL, THAT'S FITTING, INDEED---

FOR THIS WILL BE YOUR END!!

FAK

UMMFFF!

JUST WHAT I NEEDED..!

A FEW-SECOND BREATHER SO I CAN PUT ON MY SHIRT!

ANYWAY, I'M ALMOST FREE OF THE WEBBING BY NOW!

COSTUMING YOURSELF AGAIN, I SEE!

WELL, IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT YOU LOSE YOUR FINAL BATTLE --- SUITABLY ATTIRED!

PTAAM!!

MUCH OBLIGED, SKINHEAD!

NICE OF YOU TO JAR ME LOOSE AGAIN!

MY NEXT BLOW WILL JAR YOU --- OUT OF EXISTENCE!

SEE HOW EASILY I CAN SWAT YOU OFF THE WALL...

--- LIKE THE PUNY INSECT YOU ARE!

BIG DEAL! I WAS CUTTING OUT ANYWAY!

KRAK!

BUT HOW ABOUT I TAKE YOU *WITH* ME, DAD?

SHUCKS! I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T EVEN *FEEL* THAT!

...YOU ONLY LANDED ON YOUR *HEAD!*

FEELS LIKE HE WEIGHS A *TON!*

BUT IT'S NOT *FAT*... IT'S ALL *MUSCLE!!*

OH!

AND *NOW*... IT'S *MY* TURN!

...AND *THIS* TIME I SHALL NOT LET *GO*...

...TILL *SPIDER-MAN* IS A THREAT *NO LONGER!*

YOU JUST MADE YOUR FIRST *FATAL MISTAKE!*

BY GETTING *CLOSE* ENOUGH FOR ME TO *GRAB* YOU!

EVEN WITH... MY *SPIDEY STRENGTH*... I CAN'T...TAKE MUCH *MORE*... OF THIS!!

HAVE TO *DO* SOMETHING... *ANYTHING*... FAST!!

THE PRESSURE... IS... TOO MUCH!

NEVER... BEEN SO... HELPLESS... BEFORE!!

THIS IS HOW IT HAD TO END!

UHHHH

NO ONE CAN MATCH THE KINGPIN'S STRENGTH!

AT LAST... THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT I'M THE VICTOR!

SPIDER-MAN HAS FINALLY MET HIS MASTER!

KINGPIN... LOOK OUT!

HE WAS ONLY PLAYING POSSUM!

TOO LATE! HE FELL FOR IT LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!

WHUUPPFFF!

OR SHOULD I SAY... A BAG OF BLUBBER?

HE'S DOWN! BUT, FOR HOW LONG?

MY HAND IS ALMOST COMPLETELY NUMB!

I HAVE TO KEEP RUBBING IT... MAKE THE BLOOD CIRCULATE!

GOT YOU, YOU BLUNDERING FOOL!

TWO CAN PLAY YOUR LITTLE GAME!

BLOK!

NOW I'LL *FINISH* WHERE WE LEFT OFF!

BUT *THIS* TIME I'LL BE LESS *MERCIFUL!*

COME *OFF* IT! A *FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE* YOU *NEVER* WERE!

HAVE TO PLAY FOR *TIME*...TILL THE *NUMBNESS* PASSES!

THWAP!

RUNNING WON'T HELP!

MY *CANE* WILL PICK YOU OFF THE WALL...

...LIKE THE HUMAN *INSECT* YOU TRULY ARE!

THANKS FOR THE *WARNING,* SKINHEAD!

I'LL DO AS MUCH FOR *YOU* SOME TIME!

PHTHUPPPPPP

PERFECT TIMING!

WHA..?!!

CLICK!

ARGHHH!

BTOOM!

HIS CANE-GUN *BACK-FIRED,* AND...

UH OH! ONE OF HIS *STOOGES*...MAKING A BEE-LINE *OUT* OF HERE!

BUT, WHERE'S HE *HEADING?*

IF HE WAS TRYING TO *ESCAPE*... HE'D BE GOING THE *OTHER* WAY!

BUT, HE'S *NOT*...WHICH JUST MIGHT MEAN *ONE* THING...

HE *COULD* BE AFTER THE STOLEN *TABLET!*

THE KINGPIN'LL HAVE TO *KEEP!*

RIGHT *NOW*, THE TABLET IS *MORE* IMPORTANT!

WHILE OUTSIDE, AT THAT MOMENT...

THAT'S *RIGHT*, SARGE! I SPOTTED THE KINGPIN'S *CAR* OVER THERE...

AND THEN I HEARD A *SHOT*...FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING!

ALL RIGHT, MEN! WHAT ARE WE *WAITING* FOR?

THERE HE *IS!* WE *FOUND* 'IM!

QUICK! GET THE *CUFFS* ON HIM WHILE HE'S STILL *GROGGY!*

THE *POLICE!* ...THEY'LL *NEVER* BE ABLE TO *HOLD* ME!

BUT I WON'T YET *RESIST!* I'VE SOMETHING THAT MUST BE *DONE* FIRST...!

WHERE'S THE *TABLET*, KING-PIN? WE *KNOW* YOU'VE GOT IT!

DO YOU THINK I'D *KEEP* IT HERE...WHERE IT COULD *INCRIMINATE* ME?

UNTIL YOU *FIND* IT, YOU'LL *NEVER* BE ABLE TO PROVE MY *GUILT!*

AND, BY *NOW*, MY WEB-SWINGING *ALLY* HAS TAKEN IT SAFELY *AWAY*, FROM HERE!

...JUST AS HE WILL FREE *ME* FROM CAPTIVITY...WHEN THE TIME IS *RIPE!*

THEN JAMESON WAS *RIGHT!* *SPIDER-MAN'S* IN THIS AS DEEP AS *YOU!*

WITH A FEW CHOICE *WORDS*, I'VE SEALED THE WALL-CRAWLER'S *DOOM!*

MEANWHILE, *UNAWARE* OF HOW DEEPLY HE'S BEEN *IMPLICATED*, SPIDEY CONTINUES TO DO HIS THING...

NO ONE CAN OPEN IT THE WAY THE *KINGPIN* COULD---

BUT, IF I CAN FIND MYSELF ENOUGH *EX-PLOSIVES*..!!

DON'T *BOTHER*, BRIGHT BOY!

WHO..??!

THERE! THAT'LL KEEP YOU ALL COMFY-COZY!

NO *WONDER* NO ONE CAN OPEN THIS THING---

THERE'S NO *LOCK* TO JIMMY! NO COMBINATION! *NOTHING!*

WHICH MEANS THAT TUBBY MUST HAVE USED *RAW STRENGTH!*

JUST *EXACTLY* LIKE...

THIS!!

KRRAK!

AND NOW... IF MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT...

YEP! THERE IT IS!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THIS PETRIFIED STONE IS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE OBJECTS ON EARTH!

I WONDER IF THEY'LL EVER LEARN WHAT THESE HIERO-GLYPHICS MEAN?

WAIT! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE!

DON'T BET ON IT, MISTER!

THE COPS'LL PICK HIM UP BEFORE HE GETS TOO LONELY!

THEN, SECONDS LATER, AFTER FINDING THE KINGPIN GONE---

WOW! THE BLUECOATS HAVE LANDED ALREADY!

DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG TO MAKE THE SCENE!

NOW I WON'T HAVE TO CARRY THE TABLET ALL OVER TOWN!

HOLD IT, GANG! I'VE GOT SOME-THING FOR YOU!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

HE'S OUT TO FREE THE KINGPIN!

WATCH IT! HE'S GONNA TOSS SOME-THING AT US!

SPAKK

THEY'RE FIRING AT ME!!

GIVE YOURSELF UP---OR OUR NEXT SHOT WON'T MISS!

WHERE'D HE GO?

HE SWUNG AROUND... OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE...

SO! NO MATTER WHAT I DO...

NOTHING EVER CHANGES!

THE MORE I TRY TO HELP THE LAW...

THE MORE THEY HUNT ME...THE MORE THEY HATE ME!

OKAY, THEN---IF THAT'S HOW THEY WANT IT...

I'M THRU BEING A PUBLIC FALL GUY!

FROM NOW ON...IT'S SPIDEY AGAINST THE WORLD!

IF THEY CALL ME A MENACE...AND TREAT ME LIKE A MENACE---

I MIGHT AS WELL BE A MENACE!

NEXT:

POINT OF NO RETURN!

SPIDER-MAN
12¢ IND.
70 MAR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SPIDER-MAN WANTED!

ROMITA

SPIDER-MAN WANTED!

BUGLE

THE WEATHER
SUNNY, mild today fair, continued mild tonight, tomorrow. Temp range: today 78-62

MAKES OFF WITH PRICELESS CLAY TABLET AS POLICE APPREHEND HIS PARTNER, THE KINGPIN!

I'VE GOT TO GET *OUT* OF HERE! I'VE GOT TO CATCH THE *WEB-SLINGER!*

THE TABLET IS *MINE!* NO ONE *ELSE* CAN HAVE IT!

NO MATTER *WHERE* HE HOLES UP... I'LL *FIND* HIM... AND *DESTROY* HIM!

FANTASTICALLY FABRICATED BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE, *AUTHOR!*
JOHN (RING-A-DING) ROMITA, *INNOVATOR!*
JIM (MAD-MAN) MOONEY, *ILLUSTRATOR!*
SAM (ROSY) ROSEN, *LETTERER!*

SAVE YOUR BREATH, KINGPIN! YOUR *DES-TROYING* DAYS ARE *OVER!*

SOON AS WE CAN GET A *PRISON SUIT* BIG ENOUGH TO *FIT* YOU, YOU'LL JUST BE A *NUMBER* AROUND HERE!

ANYWAY, SPIDER-MAN'S YOUR *PARTNER,* ISN'T HE? SO WHY THE *GRIPE?*

HE RAN OFF AND *LEFT* ME... *THAT'S* THE GRIPE!

WAIT'LL I GET MY *HANDS* ON HIM!!

I *FORGOT!* I'VE *CONVINCED* EVERYONE THAT THE WALL-CRAWLER *HELPED* ME STEAL THE TABLET!

MUSTN'T GIVE THEM CAUSE FOR *DOUBT!*

*HAH! LOOK AT 'IM--- THE GREAT, BIG *KINGPIN!*

THOUGHT YA WERE A *BIG MAN,* HUH... PUTTIN' ME DOWN JUST 'CAUSE I MENTIONED YER *WIFE!**

YOU INSIGNIFICANT *WORM!* I COULD HAVE GROUND YOU INTO THE *DUST* HAD I WANTED TO!

HEY! SHUDDUP, YA FOOL! IF HE EVER *ESCAPES...!*

*IT HAPPENED LAST ISH, FORGETFUL ONE!... *STAN.*

ESCAPE? OF *COURSE,* I'LL ESCAPE!

AND THEN, JUST *IMAGINE* YOURSELVES... *HELPLESS* IN THE KING-PIN'S *GRIP!*

HOW COME YOU'RE NO LONGER *LAUGHING!*

HE WUZ ONLY *KIDDIN',* KINGPIN--- *HONEST!* YOU KNOW HOW SOME GUYS ARE ALWAYS SHOOTIN' OFF THEIR *MOUTHS!*

SPARE ME YOUR COWARDLY *WHIMPER-ING!* I HAVE *THINK-ING* TO DO!

I HAVE TO WORK THE *BARS* LOOSE... WITHOUT ANYONE *NOTICING!*

I'LL ACT AS THOUGH I'M *GRIPPING* THEM IN FRUSTRATED *RAGE!*

AND, ALL THE WHILE, I'LL BE SLOWLY *TWISTING*---AND *TURNING* THEM!

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF OUR WONDROUS, THOUGH WOE-BEGONE *WEB-SPINNER*--?

FOR *ONCE* I THOUGHT EVERY-THING HAD TURNED OUT *A-OKAY!*

I HAD HELPED CATCH THE *KING-PIN*... AND SAVED THE *TABLET*, WHICH I WANTED TO RETURN TO THE *EXHIBITION HALL!*

BUT THAT FAT *FOUL-UP* CONVINCED THE POLICE THAT I'M IN *LEAGUE* WITH HIM...

AND, SINCE THEY KNOW MY *POWER*, THEY HAVE ORDERS TO *SHOOT ME ON SIGHT!*

SO *NOTHING'S* WORKED OUT RIGHT! POOR *RANDY*, AND THE OTHER KIDS WHO LED THE CAMPUS *PROTEST*, ENDED UP GETTING *BOOKED*...

NOW, FROM THE *LOOKS* OF THINGS, I'LL *NEVER* HAVE A CHANCE TO RETURN THIS CRUMMY *TABLET!*

AND EVEN *THEY* WERE SUSPECTED OF HAVING SOME *ULTERIOR MOTIVES!*

THWIP!

BUT FROM *NOW* ON, THINGS'LL BE PLENTY *DIFFERENT!*

I'M SICK'N *TIRED* OF BEING A FRIENDLY, NEIGHBOR-HOOD *FALL GUY!*

IF EVER *ANYONE* HAD AN EXCUSE TO *REALLY* TURN BAD...

SPIDEY'S THE GUY!

OR, AM I JUST TRYING TO *JUSTIFY* MY CRIME...?

LIKE ANY *OTHER* CRIMINAL!

WATCH IT, SPIDEY! ...ALMOST *SLIPPED* JUST THEN!

AN INCH *FURTHER* ...AND I WOULDN'T HAVE *MADE* IT!

WHY DO I KEEP *RISKING* IT?

WHY??

EVERY TIME I SQUEEZE INTO THIS CORNY *SPIDEY SUIT,* I'M TAKING MY *LIFE* IN MY HANDS!

AND FOR *WHAT??* THAT'S WHAT *BUGS* ME... FOR *WHAT??*

ZAK

C'MON NOW, WEB-HEAD...GET *HOLD* OF YOURSELF!

IF I KEEP UP THIS NUTTY *SOUL-SEARCHING,* I'LL BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE *FUNNY FARM!*

THE *FIRST* THING FOR ME TO DO IS FIND A PLACE FOR *THIS..!*

I'M NOT ABOUT TO *CARRY* IT FOREVER!

BUT I'M NOT LEAVING IT ON ANY ROOFTOP, EITHER!

IT'S DARK ENOUGH NOW FOR ME TO HIT THE STREET AND--- UH OH!!

SOMETHING'S WRONG! MY SPIDEY SENSE IS TINGLING LIKE MAD!

GUNFIRE! SOMEONE'S SHOOTING AT ME!

KRAK!

FZAK!

HE'S SHOOTING WIDE--- JUST TRYING TO GET ME DOWN!

KRAK!

GIVE YOURSELF UP, MISTER!

I'D RATHER TAKE YOU ALIVE!

FUNNY... THAT'S JUST THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT IT!

I NEVER COULD STAND THE SIGHT OF BLOOD!

...SPECIALLY MINE!

BZAP!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE US *FOREVER!*

BUT THERE'S NO HARM IN *TRYING!*

LOOKS LIKE IT'S BACK TO THE ROOF-TOPS FOR ME---

...WHETHER I *LIKE* IT OR NOT!

BOY! WHAT A PRIZE *CHUMP* I AM!

WHY AM I KNOCKING MYSELF *OUT* THIS WAY?

THERE'S ONLY *ONE* PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE THE *TABLET*...

AND I SHOULD HAVE *THOUGHT* OF IT RIGHT AWAY!

NOBODY'S *EVER* GONNA BOTHER TO LOOK IN THE *PRIVATE CLOSET* OF PETER PARKER, BOY SOPHO-MORE!

EVEN *HARRY* THINKS I JUST KEEP IT STUFFED WITH WORTHLESS OLD *CHEM LAB* EQUIPMENT!

IT'S LUCKY FOR ME THAT HE'S DATING *M.J.* TONIGHT!

EVEN TO *HIM*, A PETRIFIED *TABLET* MIGHT HAVE SEEMED A LITTLE BIT *MUCH!*

CLICK!

NOW I HAVEN'T A *WORRY* IN THE WORLD!

...EXCEPT WHAT I'D DO IF SOMEONE *DOES* FIND THE STOLEN TABLET HIDDEN IN MY *CLOSET!*

OR, IF ANYONE FIGURES OUT THAT *SPIDEY* IS REALLY MRS. PARKER'S FAIR-HAIRED *NEPHEW!*

OR, IF I HAVE TO FACE THE *KINGPIN* AGAIN---AND HE *SQUASHES* ME!!

YEP! LIFE SURE IS A MILLION *LAUGHS!*

...FOR THE *OTHER* GUY!

AND, LONG INTO THE NIGHT, AS *SLEEP* ELUDES THE TROUBLED YOUTH ...

I AVEN'T EVEN HAD A *CHANCE* TO LOOK IN ON *AUNT MAY*...

TO SEE HOW SHE'S *FEELING* NOW!

AS FOR JOLLY *JONAH*, HIS PAPER IS MORE *ANTI-SPIDEY* THAN EVER BEFORE!

AND HOW DO I EXPLAIN MY *DISAPPEAR-ANCE* TO *GWEN*?

...OR TO HER *DAD*...WHO'S *SHARPER* THAN ANYONE KNOWS!

AND WHAT ABOUT *JOE ROBERTSON*... *RANDY*... *JOSH*... AND THE OTHERS?

NOT TO MENTION THE *KINGPIN*... WHOM I *CAN'T* FORGET!

OH, *BRO-*THER! AM *I* IN GREAT SHAPE!

FINALLY, AS THE FIRST, FAINT, FLICKERING FINGERS OF *DAWN* BEGIN TO STEAL ACROSS THE AWAKENING CITY...

THE MORE I RISK MY *LIFE*... THE MORE DEADLY *CHANCES* I TAKE...

THE LESS *GOOD* IT SEEMS TO DO!

WITH ALL MY *STRENGTH* ...WITH ALL MY *POWERS*...

WHY CAN'T I EVER MAKE THINGS *RIGHT*?

AND, A FEW HOURS *LATER*...

WELL, AT LEAST I ACCOMPLISHED *ONE* THING...

I STOPPED THE *KINGPIN* FROM COPPING THE *TABLET*!

BUT NOW THAT *I* HAVE IT--

WHAT DO I *DO* WITH IT?

PETER!!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL *OVER* FOR YOU!

SAY! DID YOU TAKE *ZOMBIE* PILLS THIS A.M.?

I'M OKAY, GWENDY!

JUST A LITTLE *TIRED*, I GUESS!

TOO TIRED TO PICK UP A *PHONE*, MR. PARKER?

ACCORDING TO THE *OTHER* KIDS, YOU SHOULD BE *EXHAUSTED*...

FROM *CHICKEN-ING OUT* WHENEVER IT'S TIME TO TAKE A *STAND* FOR SOMETHING!

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF THEY AREN'T *RIGHT!*

HOW CAN I *TELL* HER? WHENEVER THERE'S *TROUBLE*, PETER PARKER *HAS* TO LOOK LIKE A *COP-OUT*...

IN ORDER FOR *SPIDER-MAN* TO MAKE THE SCENE!

THE *LEAST* YOU COULD DO IS TRY TO FUMBLE FOR AN *EXCUSE*, MAN!

I WAS A *FOOL* TO THINK THAT *ANY-ONE* COULD LOVE ME ENOUGH... TO TRUST ME *BLINDLY!*

OKAY THEN... *STAND* THERE CHEWING YOUR CUD!

THERE *MUST* BE A REASON FOR THAT *DIS-APPEARING ACT* OF YOURS... AND I'LL WAIT TILL YOU *LEVEL* WITH ME!

LIKE I SHOULD HAVE MY *HEAD* EXAMINED --- BUT MAYBE I'M JUST TOO *DUMB* TO WRITE YOU *OFF!*

SHE *DOES* LOVE ME! SHE *DOES* TRUST ME!

HEY! YOU'RE *CRYING!* WHAT BROUGHT *THAT* ON?

SKIP IT, MR. PARKER! IT'S JUST NO FUN... LOSING YOUR STUPID *HEART*... TO SOMEONE WHO'S ALWAYS MAKING LIKE... A *COWARD!*

A *COWARD!!* YOU THINK *I'M A COWARD??!*

DON'T... MAKE ME *ANSWER* THAT... PETER!

BUT, *HERE'S* A GENT WHO *WANTS* AN ANSWER---

A *FINE* THING WHEN I HAVE TO COMB THE TOWN, LOOKING FOR MY OWN *CITY EDITOR!*

WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING *HERE*, ROBERT-SON?

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR *NEWS* OF THE CAMPUS PROTESTERS, JJ!

THEY'RE INSIDE *NOW*... HAVING A *MEETING* WITH THE DEAN!

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR *MARBLES*, MISTER?

THAT BLASTED *WALL-CRAWLER* IS STILL AT LARGE ---WITH HALF THE *POLICE FORCE* OUT TO *GET* HIM!

SO LONG AS MY *SON* IS INVOLVED, *NOBODY* COVERS THIS STORY BUT *ME!*

IF YOU WANT *SPIDER-MAN* ---GO FIND HIM *YOUR-SELF!*

THAT'S WHERE THE *NEWS* IS, ROBBIE! *ANYONE* CAN COVER THIS *KID STUFF!*

YOU..YOU CAN'T TALK TO *ME* THAT WAY!

DON'T *BET* ON IT!

WHILE, *INSIDE* THE WALNUT-PANELLED CONFERENCE ROOM...

DEAN CORLISS HAS A *STATE-MENT* TO MAKE!

I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE *TRUSTEES* HAVE JUST VOTED TO CONVERT THE *EXHIBITION HALL* INTO A *LOW-RENT DORM* FOR NEEDY STUDENTS!

IT'S WHAT WE WERE *FIGHTING* FOR! THAT MEANS...WE *WON!*

IT'S A *HOLLOW VICTORY*, SON! ALL THIS *TUR-MOIL* WASN'T NECESSARY!

DEAN CORLISS WAS ON *YOUR* SIDE ALL THE *TIME!*

THEN WHY DIDN'T HE *TELL* US?

WHY DID HE REFUSE TO *MEET* US?

I'M NOT *BLAMELESS* IN THIS MATTER!

I THOUGHT STUDENTS SHOULD BE *SEEN* AND NOT *HEARD!*

I REALIZE *NOW*... HOW *MISTAKEN* I WAS!

THEN, MAYBE *EVERYBODY* WON...A LITTLE!

SINCE NO *DAMAGE* WAS DONE... AND THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE THEFT OF THE *TABLET*...

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE *MAIN ISSUE* ...THE LOW RENT *DORM?*

THE DEAN RECOMMENDED *AMNESTY* FOR ALL THE PROTESTORS!

WE *GOT* IT, DAD! JUST LIKE YOU *SAID* WE WOULD!

I *KNEW* DEAN CORLISS WAS IN *FAVOR* OF IT ALL THE TIME!

BUT HE HAD AN UP-HILL *FIGHT* TO CONVINCE THE *TRUSTEES!*

SOMETIMES IT ISN'T EASY TO TELL... WHO YOUR *REAL* FRIENDS ARE!

I SURE HAD *YOU* PEGGED WRONG, MR. ROBERTSON!

EVEN IF YOU WORK FOR *WHITEY*... YOU'RE A *RIGHT CAT* IN MY BOOK!

MAYBE... THERE'S A *LOTTA* THINGS ...I GOTTA *THINK* ABOUT SOME MORE!

AND HERE'S SOMETHING FOR *US* TO THINK ABOUT... ALL *300 POUNDS* OF HIM...

I'VE *DONE* IT! THE BARS ARE *LOOSE* ENOUGH TO PULL *OUT* NOW!

I'VE ONLY TO WAIT FOR THE *RIGHT* MOMENT!

AND, SINCE *STAN* AND *JOHNNY* ARE AS IMPATIENT AS THE *KINGPIN*, THE RIGHT MOMENT ISN'T VERY LONG IN COMING---

NOW!

HE *DID* IT! HE'S *OUT!*

WAIT! YOU... YOU CAN'T GO WITHOUT *US!*

THINK SO? JUST WATCH AND *SEE!*

THOOM!

THUMP!

LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT *NOISE* IN THERE?

SOUNDS LIKE A RUNAWAY *HIPPO* THUNDERING DOWN THE CORRIDOR!

WE'D BETTER CHECK IT *OUT!*

THOOM!

TH-OOM!

IT'S THE KINGP-

-OOF!!

I THANK YOU FOR THE *LODGINGS*...

BUT I *NEVER* OVERSTAY MY WELCOME!

NOW, **NOTHING** MUST STOP ME FROM RETRIEVING THAT **TABLET** FROM THE MASKED **WEB-SPINNER!**

AND ONCE I MAKE IT PAST THE NEXT GATE... **NOTHING SHALL!!**

SECONDS LATER...

NOTIFY THE **GOVERNOR!** SEND OUT AN **ALL-POINTS!**

THE KING-PIN'S ESCAPED!

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF **SPIDEY?** (WE'RE SURE GLAD YOU **ASKED!**)

I SHOULD HAVE **THOUGHT** OF THIS **LONG** AGO!

THE **TABLET** CAN'T DO ME ANY **GOOD** GETTING DUSTY IN MY **CLOSET!**

BUT, IF I CAN LEARN WHAT THE **INSCRIP-TION** SAYS..!

THERE'S A **FORTUNE** WAITING FOR THE MAN WHO **DECIPHERS** IT!

AND IT MIGHT AS WELL BE **ME!**

OF COURSE, I'LL NEED SOME **HELP...**

SO I LOOKED UP THE BIGGEST AUTHORITY ON **HIEROGLYPHICS** IN TOWN!

HIS **STUDIO** IS RIGHT BELOW ME...!

ARCH

IF I CAN JUST GET HIM TO...

WAIT!! WHAT'S THIS?!!

A **SPOTLIGHT!!** IT'S THE **POLICE!**

I SHOULD HAVE *GUESSED* THEY'D HAVE A *STAKE-OUT* FOR ME HERE!

SURROUND THE BUILDING!

IF *SPIDER-MAN'S* HERE...THE *KINGPIN* MAY BE HOLED UP *INSIDE!*

THE *KINGPIN!* HE MUST HAVE *ESCAPED* AGAIN!

WHICH MEANS I'M IN *GREATER DANGER* THAN EVER!

THEY PROBABLY THINK I *HELPED* HIM ESCAPE!

ZAK!

WELL, I'M *THRU* WAITING FOR TROUBLE TO COME TO *ME...!*

THIS TIME I DON'T *REST* TILL I FIND THE *KINGPIN!*

AND I KNOW JUST THE WAY TO *DO* IT!

I'VE GOT TO **TACKLE** EVERY CHEAP **HOOD** I FIND DOWN BELOW!

IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR THE **KINGPIN** TO HEAR THAT I'M ON A ONE-MAN **WEB-SWINGING** BINGE!

WELL, WELL! JUST WHAT I'M **LOOKING** FOR!

A FEW OF KINGY'S EX-**TORPEDOES!**

HOLD IT, GROUP! LET'S HAVE A **HAPPEN-ING!**

AND IF **THAT** DOESN'T SMOKE HIM OUT... **NOTHING** WILL!

LOOK OUT! IT'S **SPIDER-MAN!**

THAT'LL DO THE TRICK!

--SPECIALLY SINCE I MADE **SURE** THEY'D SEE THE **TABLET** ON MY BACK!

BUT, WHETHER IT'S BECAUSE HE WANTS TO LEAVE NO STONE **UNTURNED,** OR BECAUSE OF THE NAKED **RAGE** SEETHING IN HIS BREAST...

...THE WONDROUS WEB-SPINNER **CONTINUES** HIS "POUNCE-ON-THE-PUNKS" CAMPAIGN WITH EVER-MOUNTING **FURY**---!

WHAT!

YOP!

BIFF!

...UNTIL, AT LAST, HIGH ABOVE THE VERY *HEART* OF THE SLUMBERING METROPOLIS...

THE KINGPIN SHOULD HAVE SHOWN HIS *HAND* BY NOW!

HE *MUST* HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT I'M CARRYING THE *TABLET!*

AND I'M BETTING HE'LL DO *ANYTHING* TO GET IT *BACK!*

WELL, HOW ABOUT *THAT?!!*

A REAL, LIVE *HI-JACKING* DOWN THERE!

IS THIS A *PRIVATE* PARTY, GANG... OR CAN *ANYONE* JOIN IN?

IT'S *SPIDER-MAN*... JUST LIKE WE *PLANNED* IT!

CLAM UP, YA FOOL! HE'LL *HEAR* YA!

C'MON! WE GOTTA MAKE THIS LOOK *GOOD!*

DROP THE HARDWARE, YOU CREEPS!

YOU *KNOW* WHAT *POWDER BURNS* CAN DO TO DISHPAN HANDS!

OKAY, PAL... YOU CAN *BURN RUBBER* NOW!

THESE *SLEEPING BEAUTIES* HAVE SUDDENLY LOST *INTEREST* IN GRABBING OTHER PEOPLE'S *DINKY TOYS!*

BUT IT WAS NEVER THE *VEHICLE* THEY WERE AFTER...

HUH? WHO *SAID* THAT?

WHO *INDEED?* THE ONE WHO BAITED THE *TRAP* INTO WHICH YOU HAVE SO CONVENIENTLY *BLUNDERED!*

YOU!!

SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK THE *KINGPIN* WOULD ABANDON YOU TO THE *POLICE?*

SKRAAK!

NO! I ALWAYS BELIEVE IN *SETTLING* MY ACCOUNTS... *MYSELF!*

BUT FIRST... I MUST HAVE THE *TABLET!*

A *REASONABLE* REQUEST!

TOO BAD I HAVE TO *DISAPPOINT* YOU!

YOU CAN'T KEEP *DODGING* ME FOREVER!

FWK!

I DON'T *INTEND* TO, FATSO!

HEY... WATCH *OUT!* YOU'LL RUIN THE *SIMONIZE!*

SPA

I WON'T?

THEN WHY AM I KNOCKING MYSELF OUT?

YOU PATHETIC PILE OF SKIN AND BONES...

YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME!

I MIGHT AS WELL COME BACK FOR MORE FUN 'N GAMES!

POW

IF THAT DIDN'T ROCK HIM TO DREAM-LAND, HE MUST HAVE ARMOR-PLATED SKIN!

OH NO! IT... CAN'T BE...!

HE'S ACTUALLY ... GETTING UP!

HEY! WHY'S THAT CAR RACING TOWARDS US LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW?!!

THOOOK

OH NO!
IT'S A DAILY BUGLE RADIO PATROL CAR!
JONAH JAMESON'S INSIDE... WITH NED LEEDS DRIVING!
GET OUT OF HERE... BOTH OF YOU! YOU'LL SPOIL EVERY-THING!
LEAVE THE KING-PIN TO ME!
HE STILL HAS THE TABLET STRAPPED TO HIM!
BUT HIS ATTACK WEAKENED ME... AND I MUSTN'T FACE ...THE POLICE!
LET THE TWO OF YOU ESCAPE AGAIN? NOT A CHANCE!
USE YOUR RADIO, LEEDS! CALL THE POLICE... FAST!
WE'VE GOT 'IM FOR SURE!

BUT SUDDENLY, ANOTHER SEDAN SKIDS TO A TIRE-GRINDING HALT!..
SKREEEEEEEEEEEE
SSSSSS
I DON'T LIKE IT, MR. JAMESON!
WE'RE SANDWICHED BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM!
IT'S HARD TO SEE, WITH THE KINGPIN BLOCKING THE DOOR...
BUT THAT LOOKS LIKE A WOMAN AT THE WHEEL!
INTO THE CAR... QUICKLY! ...WHILE THERE STILL IS TIME!
HURRY! IF YOU WAIT ANY LONGER IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
SAY! WHOSE CAR JUST PULLED UP NEXT TO THE KINGPIN?
EVEN IF I LEAVE NOW ...WITHOUT THE TABLET ...SPIDER-MAN LOSES!
HE'S STILL A FUGITIVE... AND NOT EVEN THE TABLET CAN HELP HIM!

THE WISE MAN *KNOWS* WHEN TO MAKE HIS *EXIT!*

THERE'LL BE *ANOTHER* TIME...ANOTHER *PLACE*... FOR *SPIDER-MAN* AND ME TO *SETTLE* OUR ACCOUNT!

IF ONLY ONE OF OUR *PHOTOGRAPHERS* WAS HERE!

YOU ARRIVED JUST IN *TIME*, MY DEAR!

NOW DRIVE ON!

LOOK! SPIDER-MAN'S MAKING A BREAK, *ALSO!*

QUICK, LEEDS! WE CAN *BLOCK* HIM WITH OUR *CAR!!*

YOU HYSTERICAL *NUT!* I WAS TRYING TO GRAB THE *KINGPIN!*

NOW, THANKS TO *YOU*... HE GOT *AWAY!*

YOU CAN'T FOOL *ME,* WALL-CRAWLER!

SHOOM!

BUGLE

I KNOW YOU TWO *PLANNED* THE WHOLE *THING!*

YOU *TRIED* TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE *ENEMIES*... BUT I'M *WISE* TO YOU!

YOU'VE MANAGED TO ESCAPE *BEFORE*... BUT *THIS* TIME...YOU'RE *FINISHED!*

I'LL *KEEP* THE PUBLIC CLAMORING FOR YOUR *HIDE!!*

I'LL ATTACK THE *POLICE* IN EVERY *EDITORIAL* ...UNTIL THEY'VE *CAUGHT* YOU!

I'LL USE MY *PAPER* TO... *LEEDS!*

STOP HIM! HE'S ABOUT TO ATTACK ME!

FOR ONCE YOU'RE *RIGHT,* JAMESON!

EVEN A *WALL-CRAWLER* CAN HAVE HIS *BREAKING POINT!!*

BEAT IT, LEEDS!

THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND THAT HUMAN HATE MACHINE!

NO! NO!

YOU'VE BEEN ON MY BACK EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER...

AND FOR NO REASON AT ALL!

SO MAYBE IT'S TIME I GIVE YOU A REASON!

SPIDER-MAN... DON'T!

LET'S GET TO THE NITTY GRITTY, FLAT-HEAD!..

EYEBALL TO EYEBALL--

NO! NO! NO!

NNNO...=UHHHH!=

THIS IS TOUGHER ON ME THAN YOU!

I HAVE TO LOOK AT... HEY!!

JAMESON!! WHAT IS IT??

SOMETHING... HAPPENED TO HIM!!

HE...HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM??

THE *POLICE!* HAVE TO *CUT OUT!*

LOOK! I ONLY WANTED...TO GIVE HIM A *SCARE!*

YOU GAVE HIM MORE THAN *THAT..*

I...DON'T FEEL...A *PULSE!*

HE MUST HAVE HAD A *HEART ATTACK!*

BUT...IF HE *DIES* ...THEY'LL CALL ME A *MURDERER!*

DON'T SHOOT! TOO MANY *WINDOWS* ...WITH *PEOPLE* INSIDE!

NOW WHAT DO I DO? WHERE DO I *GO?* TO *WHOM* DO I *TURN?*

IN ONE BRIEF *MOMENT*-- I'VE LOST *EVERY-THING!*

...ALL BECAUSE OF THE *KINGPIN* ---AND THIS BLASTED *TABLET!*

IF JAMESON *DIES*, I... *NO!* I WON'T EVEN *THINK* OF IT!!

BUT, HAVE I ACTUALLY *GIVEN* HIM... HIS FINAL *VICTORY?*

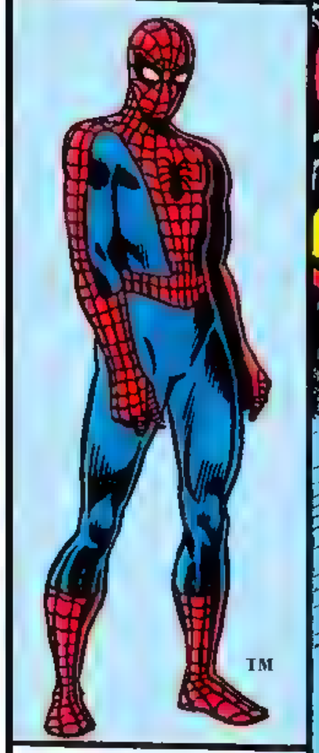
BY LOSING MY *TEMPER*... BY LOSING *CONTROL*...

I'VE *PROVEN* MYSELF AS *DANGEROUS* ...AS HE ALWAYS *SAID* I WAS!!

NEXT:

THE MOST SHOCKINGLY UNEXPECTED SUPER-FOE OF THEM ALL!

SPIDER-MAN
12¢ IND.
71 APR



MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

AND NOW... QUICKSILVER!

ROMITA

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

THE SPEEDSTER AND THE SPIDER!

LAST ISH, WE SAW OUR TORMENTED *WEB-SLINGER* FINALLY LOSE HIS *TEMPER* AS HE ANGRILY THREATENED A NEARLY-HYSTERICAL *J. JONAH JAMESON!* BUT, THE STARTLED PUBLISHER SUDDENLY *COLLAPSED* IN SHOCK, AS *SPIDEY* BARELY MANAGED TO *ESCAPE* THE ONRUSHING POLICE...

EVERYTHING I *TRY*...EVERY-THING I *DO*...

SEEMS TO END IN... *DISASTER!*

MAYBE JAMESON WAS *RIGHT!* MAYBE I *AM* A MENACE!

SMILIN' STAN LEE, *AUTHOR*... JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA, *INNOVATOR*... *and* JIM (MAD-MAN) MOONEY, *ILLUSTRATOR*... EAGERLY INVITE YOU ...TO SHARE THE EXTRAORDINARY, EPIC *EXCITEMENT* THAT LIES JUST AHEAD...

LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

NOW I'M **STUCK** WITH THIS SO-CALLED **PRICE-LESS** TABLET!

I STOPPED THE **KINGPIN** FROM STEALING IT...SO NOW **I'M** BLAMED FOR THE THEFT!

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET **RID** OF IT...

AND MY WHOLE **WORLD** WILL COME DOWN AROUND MY EARS IF IT'S FOUND HERE, WITH **PETER PARKER!**

WELL, THERE'S **ONE** PROBLEM I **DON'T** HAVE...

I DON'T HAVE TO **WONDER** WHY NOBODY CALLS ME **LUCKY!!**

SOMEONE AT THE **DOOR!**

MUST BE **HARRY**... COMING HOME!

THAT'S ALL I **NEED**...TO BE FOUND LIKE **THIS!**

KLIK

THE **LIGHT'S** OUT... BUT I THOUGHT I **HEARD** SOMETHING!

IS THAT **YOU,** PETE? ARE YOU STILL **UP?**

GOTTA GET MY **SHIRT** BEFORE HE SWITCHES ON THE **LIGHT!**

NO **ANSWER!** I GUESS I WAS **MISTAKEN!**

WHEW! JUST MADE IT!

BOY, AM I BUSHED!

CLICK!

MARY JANE COULD DANCE THE LEGS OFF ASTAIRE!

I DON'T DARE SHUT MY DOOR...

HE MIGHT HEAR IT CLICK!

ONLY ONE WAY TO KEEP HIM FROM GETTING SUSPICIOUS...

I'LL HAVE TO GO TALK TO HIM!

HI, PETEY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP!

I WAS... TILL YOU CAME STOMPIN' IN, TWINKLETOES!

HAVE A GOOD TIME, HARR?

WITH M.J.? YOU KNOW IT, SON!

SO FAR SO GOOD...

...LONG AS HE DOESN'T LOOK AT MY FEET!

SEEING MUCH OF GWEN THESE DAYS, ROMEO?

NOT REALLY! I'VE BEEN KEEPING KIND OF... BUSY!

ANY GUY WHO'S TOO BUSY FOR THAT CHICK NEEDS A GOOD HEAD-SHRINKER!

WELL, I'M HITTIN' THE HAY!

ME TOO!

THAT MAKES ONE MORE TIME I AVOIDED DISCOVERY... BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH!

BUT I'VE GOTTA STOP FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF!

BOY! WHAT A GREAT WAY TO LIVE!

I HAVE TO WORK THINGS OUT... SOMEHOW...

IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF AUNT MAY!

HER RENT IS DUE IN A FEW DAYS, AND I'M FLATTER THAN---

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!

MAYBE EVERYTHING ISN'T A TOTAL WASHOUT!

WHAT ABOUT THOSE PICTURES I TOOK...OF THE KINGPIN?!!

THEN, MINUTES LATER...

HEY! THESE ARE GREAT!

THEY'RE SHARP AND CLEAR!

AND, EVEN BETTER THAN THAT...

THEY MAY HELP TO SHOW THAT SPIDEY'S INNOCENT!

WAIT A MINUTE! I JUST REMEMBERED...

WITH JOLLY JONAH IN THE HOSPITAL...

WHO'S GONNA BUY THEM FROM ME??

BUT, SINCE WE CAN'T ANSWER THAT AT THE MOMENT, LET'S GO OUTSIDE, WHERE WE FIND...

WHAT'S HAPPENING?? MY PAPERS...THEY'RE ALL BLOWING AWAY!!

IT'S LIKE...A HURRICANE!

NEWS

SECONDS LATER, THE "HURRICANE" STOPS, REVEALING THE DRAMATIC FIGURE WHOM THE WORLD KNOWS AS...QUICKSILVER!!

I'VE REACHED THE CITY AT LAST!

AND NOW TO FIND...THE AVENGERS!

I MUST EXPLAIN EVERYTHING THAT HAS OCCURRED...

AND HOPE THEY WILL UNDERSTAND!

...BEGINNING WITH THE MOMENT MAGNETO'S ISLAND FORTRESS WAS DESTROYED...

AND WANDA AND I MANAGED TO ESCAPE...TOGETHER WITH THE MISSHAPEN TOAD!*

*AS SEEN IN AVENGERS #53!...SMILEY!

"WE CRASH-LANDED ATOP AN ISOLATED PEAK IN THE ADIRONDACKS..."

THE SHIP IS **WRECKED!!** IT MAY NEVER FLY **AGAIN!**

UNLESS YOU'RE UP ON OUR **OTHER** MARVEL MAGS, THESE CHARACTERS ARE **NEW** TO YOU! BUT DON'T WORRY--YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE STORY WITH **EASE!**
--SOLICITOUS STAN.

DO NOT BE **CONCERNED,** MY SISTER!

AT LEAST WE ARE **SAFE!**

SAFE, PIETRO? SAFE TO DO **WHAT** ...TO GO **WHERE?**

ARE WE NOT STILL... **OUTCASTS?**

IF ONLY WE COULD **PROVE** THAT WE ARE NOT **EVIL!**

EVERYTHING WAS THE FAULT OF **MAGNETO!**

WE HAD NO **CHOICE** BUT TO **OBEY** HIM!

THE TOAD SPEAKS THE **TRUTH...**

BUT WHO WOULD **BELIEVE** US?

THE **AVENGERS** WOULD BELIEVE! **THEY** WOULD UNDERSTAND!

DID THEY NOT **ACCEPT** US IN THE **PAST?**

BUT **PIETRO** ...THINK OF THE **DANGER!**

WHAT IS DANGER...TO THOSE WHO WOULD BE **REDEEMED?!!**

WE CANNOT... WE SHALL NOT LIVE LIKE HUNTED BEASTS!!

REMAIN HERE, MY SISTER! REMAIN UNTIL...

...I RETURN ONCE MORE!!

THUS, WITH A SUDDEN BURST OF INCOMPREHENSIBLE SPEED, THE FASTEST LIVING BEING OF ALL HURTLES TOWARDS THE HEART OF NEW YORK---

---LEAVING HIS WAN AND LOVELY SISTER IN THE CARE OF THE TRAGIC TOAD..!

HE WILL NOT FAIL US, WANDA!

WE MUST BOTH HAVE FAITH!

MINUTES LATER, A METEORIC FIGURE ZOOMS TO THE TOP OF AVENGERS' HQ...

THE INTRUDER ALARM!

SOMEONE IS UPON THE ROOF!!

I MUST THROW THE REPELLOR-SWITCH... AT ONCE!

QUICKSILVER!! YOU!!

NOT EVEN THE ELECTRIC REPELLOR-SCREEN COULD STOP ME!

MY SPEED WAS GREATER THAN THAT OF THE DEADLY CURRENT!

BUT IT IS THE AVENGERS I SEEK!

YOU MUST TAKE ME TO THEM!

BUT...THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE, PIETRO!! THEY ARE IN AFRICA!*

* DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT! SEE FOR YOURSELF IN AVENGERS # 62! ...SOFT-SELL STAN.

THEN... MY MISSION HAS BEEN... IN VAIN!

EVEN IF I COULD REACH THE DARK CONTINENT...HOW WOULD I FIND THEM?

HEY! WATCH IT THERE, MAC!

NO! THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY!

AM I ATTACKED?!!

NO...IT IS ONLY THE MORN-ING NEWS-PAPERS BEING DELIVERED!

SPIDER-MAN! A FUGITIVE FROM THE LAW??

I MUST LEARN MORE ABOUT THAT...!!

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN WANTED!

IN TRUTH, HE *IS* A WANTED CRIMINAL!

BUT WHO COULD HAVE THE *POWER* TO APPREHEND SUCH A MAN?

WHO... BUT *QUICK-SILVER?*

THE DAILY BUGLE NEWS

SPIDER-MAN WANTED!

FATE HAS GIVEN ME THE MEANS TO *REDEEM* MYSELF AT LAST!

AND NOW, AS YOU BEGIN TO *ANTICIPATE* WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN NEXT, LET'S VISIT AN EXPENSIVE, EAST SIDE *HOSPITAL,* WHERE WE HEAR...

MR. JAMESON IS *RESTING* AT THE MOMENT...

HIS CONDITION IS LISTED AS *FAIR,* MR. ROBERTSON!

ACTUALLY, HE SUFFERED NOTHING *MORE* THAN A CASE OF *SHOCK*...

BUT HE'LL NEED COMPLETE *REST* FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS!

WEEKS DID YOU SAY?

THEN, THAT MEANS...

...*I'LL* HAVE TO TAKE OVER HIS *DUTIES!*

AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE *MUMBLED* SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT, WHEN...

OH! IT'S *JOHN JAMESON!*

DOCTOR! HOW IS MY *FATHER?*

HE'LL BE *ALL RIGHT,* COLONEL!

HE'S RESTING COMFORTABLY!

GOOD TO SEE YOU, ROBBIE! I *KNEW* YOU'D BE AT HIS SIDE!

BUT, HOW DID IT *HAPPEN?* I CAN'T BELIEVE *SPIDER-MAN* REALLY ATTACKED HIM!

I DON'T BELIEVE HE *DID,* JOHN!

IT WAS MORE OF A *THREAT*... WHICH ACCIDENTALLY *BACKFIRED!*

I'D BETTER BE *LEAVING* NOW!

I'LL HAVE A *HECTIC* DAY TOMORROW...WITH YOUR FATHER *ABSENT!*

THINGS WILL BE IN GOOD HANDS, ROB...WITH *YOU* AT THE HELM!

BE SURE TO REMEMBER ME TO YOUR *WIFE* ... AND TO YOUNG *RANDY!*

YES! I'LL *DO* THAT, SON!

20-34

SOME TIME LATER...

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO GET TO SLEEP EARLY, DEAR?

I'M TOO TENSE, HONEY... I'M ALL KEYED UP!

MY MIND IS GOING A MILE-A-MINUTE... THINKING ABOUT A DOZEN THINGS!

I... DIDN'T HEAR RANDY COME IN YET!

HE'S HERE, ROB!

HE CAME IN QUIETLY... SO AS NOT TO DISTURB YOU!

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SO CONCERNED ABOUT HIM LATELY?

I THOUGHT THAT CAMPUS PROTEST MATTER WAS ALL SETTLED?

IT'S NOT JUST THAT, MARTHA...

IT'S HIS FUTURE... IT'S THE WORLD HE'S GROWING UP IN!

HE'S TROUBLED... REBELLIOUS... FULL OF THE ANGRY IMPATIENCE OF YOUTH!

HE WANTS TO TAKE THE WORLD IN HIS HANDS... AND SHAPE IT INTO SOMETHING BETTER!

THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT, MARTHA! THAT'S WHAT REALLY COUNTS!

IT'S THE WAY WE USED TO FEEL ...REMEMBER?

IT'S THE DREAM THAT BELONGS TO THE YOUNG... IT'S THE HOPE OF THE WORLD!

BUT, SLEEP HAS A WAY OF COMING... JUST AS NEXT MORNINGS HAVE A WAY OF ROLLING AROUND... AND SO WE FIND...

BETTER SCRATCH MY APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY, BETTY!

WITH JJ OUT, IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME!

PETER PARKER HAS BEEN WAITING TO SEE YOU, MR. ROBERTSON!

IT'LL START WITH NEW PIX!

HE WOULDN'T BE THIS EARLY, UNLESS HE HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL! ASK HIM TO...

OH! HERE HE IS NOW!

FIRST TELL ME, MR. R... HOW'S JAMESON?

SAY! THESE ARE DYNAMITE!

MISS BRANT! DROP EVERYTHING! CALL THE PRESS ROOM!

THERE MAY STILL BE TIME TO CATCH THE EARLY EDITION!

NOTHING SERIOUS, SON! HE'S ON THE MEND!

NOW, ABOUT THOSE PICTURES...

THESE **SHOW**... BEYOND A SHADOW OF **DOUBT**... THAT SPIDER-MAN TRIED TO **PREVENT** THE TABLET'S THEFT!

THEY **ALSO** PROVE... CONCLUSIVELY... THAT THE YOUNG CAMPUS **PROTESTERS** HAD NOTHING TO **DO** WITH IT!

SECONDS LATER...

CALL THE **COMPOSING ROOM**... AND GET ME **REWRITE!**

PARKER! WHAT ARE YOU **MUMBLING** ABOUT? ISN'T THAT CHECK **BIG** ENOUGH?

BIG ENOUGH? IT'S THE **MOST** BREAD I'VE SEEN IN **YEARS!**

MAN! OL' **JAMESON** WOULD HAVE FREAKED **OUT** IF HE EVER SIGNED SOMETHING LIKE **THIS!**

THERE GOES **ONE** HAPPY-LOOKING CITIZEN!

MR. R. MUST HAVE **FLIPPED** OVER HIS SNAPS!

NOW AUNT MAY CAN GO DOWN **SOUTH** FOR THE **SUNSHINE** SHE NEEDS!

AND I CAN FINALLY GIVE **HARRY** MY SHARE OF THE **RENT!**

FACE IT, PETEY...

THINGS ARE LOOKING **UP**...AT **LAST!**

NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET RID OF THAT NUTTY TABLET!

AND I'VE FINALLY FIGURED OUT A WAY!

UPTOWN

I CAN'T SIMPLY GO SKIPPING INTO MY FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR-HOOD POLICE STATION!

BUT, I'LL DO THE NEXT BEST THING...

I'LL LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT FOR ME!

AND SO---

WHO'S THERE??

HAVE NO FEAR...

SPIDEY'S HERE!

I'VE GOT THE STOLEN TABLET FOR YOU!

I FIGURE YOU'D KNOW HOW TO RETURN IT!

NOW MAYBE THE POLICE WILL BELIEVE I ONLY TOOK IT TO KEEP IT SAFE FROM THE KINGPIN!

WAIT! COME BACK!

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

SOME OTHER TIME, MISTER!

I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!

HE'S TOO SHARP! I DON'T DARE TALK TOO MUCH---

--IN CASE HE RECOGNIZES MY MUFFLED VOICE... EVEN THRU THE MASK!

BUT, JAMESON'S ALIVE... SO I'M NOT A MURDERER!

AND I FINALLY GOT THE TABLET OFF MY BACK!

WHAT'S MORE... FOR THE FIRST TIME, I'VE GOT A WEB-FULL OF SPENDING MONEY!

AND MAN... AM I GONNA SPEND IT!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHY IS MY SPIDEY SENSE TINGLING??

THAT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN DANGER'S NEAR!

SOMETHING JUST ZOOMED *AHEAD* OF ME...

MOVING SO *FAST* THAT IT KEPT MY *WEBBING* FROM HITTING THE *WALL!*

WHICH MEANS, THERE'S ONLY *ONE* WAY FOR ME TO *GO*...

...AND THAT'S *DOWN!*

I AM *SORRY*, SPIDER-MAN!

IT WAS NOT MY *INTENTION* TO MAKE YOU *FALL!*

I WISH ONLY TO *CAPTURE* YOU...

TO BRING YOU TO *JUSTICE!*

QUICKSILVER!

I DID NOT *REALIZE* THE FAMOUS *SPIDER-MAN* WOULD BE SO *VULNERABLE*...

SO SEEMINGLY *HELPLESS!*

I SHALL HAVE TO *SAVE* YOU!

FROM UP *THERE?*

THAT I'VE GOTTA *SEE!*

NOTICE HOW MY GREAT *SPEED* PROVIDES UN-LIMITED *CENTRIFUGAL FORCE*---

---ENABLING ME TO DEFY *GRAVITY* ITSELF---!

SINCE YOU CLEVERLY *BROKE* YOUR FALL BY REPEATEDLY STRIKING THE *BUILDING*...

I NEED NOT *WORRY* ABOUT YOUR FATE!

I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO *LAND*, AND THEN---AT MY LEISURE, I'LL---

WHA..? WHERE DID HE *GO?*

PARK HOTEL

DANCIN
CATER

IT IS IMPOSS-IBLE!

HE MUST BE HERE! HE MUST!

AHH! I MIGHT HAVE GUESSED!

YOU ARE MOST ELUSIVE!

NOW WHAT'S HE DOING?

I NOW CALL UPON YOU TO SURRENDER... FOR I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU!

IT IS MERELY MY PURPOSE TO BRING YOU TO JUSTICE!

BETTER CHECK YOUR SCORE CARD, SONNY!

I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!

BUT, BY WHIRLING AROUND, AT ULTRA-HIGH SPEED...

SEE HOW EASILY I CAN HURL YOU OFF-BALANCE!

I WARN YOU, SPIDER-MAN! IT IS NOT WISE TO TRIFLE WITH QUICKSILVER!

I MUST BRING YOU TO JUSTICE... TO PROVE MYSELF WORTHY TO THE AVENGERS ONCE MORE!

THERE'S GOTTA BE AN EASIER WAY THAN THAT!

ON YOUR FEET, WEB-SLINGER! DO NOT TRY TO CATCH ME UNAWARES!

MY SPEED IS TOO GREAT FOR ANY SUCH MANEUVER!

WELL, JUST BETWEEN US, SPEEDY...

I'M NOT EXACTLY A SLOWPOKE MYSELF!

YOU THINK YOUR SPEED CAN COMPARE WITH MINE!

DON'T YOU REALIZE...TO ME, YOU'RE MOVING IN SLOW MOTION?!!

I CAN STRIKE YOU A *DOZEN* TIMES...

BEFORE YOU EVEN *FEEL* THE FIRST!

NOW *SURRENDER* ...SO THAT WE MAY *END* THIS FARCE!

ALL YOUR *POWERS*... ALL YOUR VAUNTED *SPIDER STRENGTH*

CANNOT SAVE YOU *NOW!*

BUT, SINCE WE *HATE* TO SHOW OUR HERO GETTING HIS LUMPS, LET'S GRAB OURSELVES A CHANGE OF SCENE...

DID YOU BRING THE *LATEST EDITION* FOR MY FATHER, LEEDS?

YES, COLONEL... BUT, PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T *SHOW* IT TO HIM YET!

NONSENSE! HE'S WELL ENOUGH TO *READ* NOW!

BUT, THAT *EXPRESSION* ON YOUR FACE

IS THERE ANY-THING *IN* THERE THAT'LL *UPSET* HIM?

IS THAT *YOU,* LEEDS?? WHERE'S MY BLASTED *PAPER!!*

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE, MAN...

HAND IT *OVER*... WHILE IT'S STILL *NEWS!*

TOO LATE TO BACK OUT, *NOW!*

YEAH! MIGHT AS WELL GET IT *OVER* WITH!

C'MON! C'MON! *C'MON!*

IF YOU'RE GONNA *DAY-DREAM*... DO IT ON YOUR *OWN* TIME!

WHAT'S THIS??!!

WHAT'S THIS??!!

"BUGLE PHOTOS SEEM TO *VINDICATE* SPIDER-MAN!"

MY PAPER ---PRINTING PICTURES THAT SHOW THE WALL-CRAWLER'S *INNOCENT!!??*

NOW TAKE IT *EASY*, DAD!

EASY?? YOU EXPECT ME TO TAKE IT *EASY*... WHEN I'M SURROUNDED BY *ASSASSINS?!*

IF THIS IS *ROBERTSON'S* IDEA OF A *JOKE* ---I'LL HAVE HIS *HIDE!!*

BETTER GET THE *DOCTOR*, NED!

YES *SIR!* I SURE DON'T WANNA BE *AROUND* WHEN OLD BLOOD 'N GUTS LEARNS WHAT ROBBIE *PAID* FOR THOSE PHOTOS!

I DON'T CARE *WHAT* THOSE PHOTOS SHOW!

SPIDER-MAN'S *GUILTY!*

HE'S *GUILTY! GUILTY! GUILTY! GUILTY! GUILTY!*

BUT, GUILTY OR *NOT*, WE'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT IT TAKES A *LOT* TO KEEP HIM *DOWN*...

NO MATTER *HOW* I PUMMEL YOU, YOU CONTINUE TO BATTLE *ON!*

A PITY FOR ONE SO *VALIANT* TO BE A *CRIMINAL!*

I'M NO MORE A CRIMINAL THAN *YOU* ARE!!

YOU SHOULDN'T *BELIEVE* EVERYTHING YOU *READ!*

IF ONLY HE'D *SLOW DOWN*... SO I CAN *NAIL* HIM... JUST *ONCE!*

BUT, INSTEAD OF *LESSENING* HIS SPEED...

YOU ARE *TOO* POWERFUL!

THERE IS BUT *ONE* WAY TO *DEAL* WITH SUCH AS YOU--!

MY *SPEED* SHALL CREATE A *WHIRLPOOL OF AIR*...

CAUSING A *SUCTION UPDRAFT* ...WHICH WILL LEAVE YOU *BREATHLESS!*

NOT EVEN SPIDER-MAN CAN CONTINUE TO FIGHT---WITHOUT OXYGEN!

CAN'T--- LET IT END--- LIKE THIS!

CAN'T LET...THE POLICE---UN-MASK ME!

I'VE GOT TO... STOP HIM--- SOMEHOW!

IF MY STRENGTH... HOLDS OUT--- THERE'S...STILL A CHANCE---

WHOOOPFFF!

---AN OBJECT... SUCH AS---MY ARM!!

FAST---AS HE IS--- HE CAN'T RUN---THRU AN OBJECT---

WHEW! ONLY MY SPIDEY STRENGTH KEPT IT FROM BEING SNAPPED IN TWO LIKE--- UH OH!

JUST WHAT I DON'T NEED!

SPIDER-MAN!! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

WE WANT BOTH OF YOU!

THAT'S REAL FLATTERING, FELLAS!

BUT, SINCE WE'RE BOTH SORTA SHY...

I'M BETTING THEY WON'T FIRE!

---SPECIALLY WITH ME CARRY-ING QUICK-SILVER!

DANCING, D CATERING

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MEN... STOP HIM!

GLAD TO, SARGE...

JUST TELL US HOW!

WHEN QUICKIE COMES *TO*, I'LL TRY TO *EXPLAIN* THINGS TO HIM!

THUS, A FEW SECONDS LATER...

YOU MIGHT HAVE *SLAIN* ME... BUT DID *NOT*...

I WILL *NO LONGER* PIT MY PROWESS AGAINST *YOURS!*

GROOVY! THAT SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF TRYING TO *CONVINCE* YOU THAT I'M NOT *ATTILA THE HUN!*

I SHALL FIND *ANOTHER* WAY TO WIN MY *REDEMPTION!*

NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF ONE SUCH AS *YOU!*

IF ONLY SOME OF *THAT*...

WOULD RUB OFF ON *JAMESON!*

HOW *ABOUT* THAT?

MAYBE MY *LUCK'S* CHANGING AT *LAST!*

OR, IS THIS JUST A *LULL*...

BEFORE THE *STORM?*

WE'LL FIND OUT FOR SURE, *NEXT*, WHEN WE'RE SUDDENLY GONNA MEET:

THE MOST SHOCKING FOE OF ALL!

SPIDER-MAN
12¢ IND.
72 MAY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ROMITA

ROCKED BY THE SHOCKER!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

ROCKED BY.. THE SHOCKER!

FORGIVE MY SUDDEN ENTRANCE, STACY...

BUT I HAPPEN TO BE IN A HURRY!

NO, NO, SPIDEY-FAN...YOU DIDN'T WANDER IN AT THE MIDDLE OF OUR STORY! IT'S JUST THAT WE HAVE SO MUCH ACTION COMING UP, THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE A MINUTE! SO, LET'S GO, GO, GO...

ZAK!

THE SHOCKER!

WHAT DO Y... UNHH!

STAN (THE MAN) LEE
AUTHOR

BIG JOHN BUSCEMA
INNOVATOR

JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA
and
JIM (MADMAN) MOONEY
ILLUSTRATORS

SWINGIN' SAMMY ROSEN,
LETTERER

IF OUR VILLAIN LOOKS FAMILIAR TO YOU, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE PREVIOUSLY THRILLED TO HIS PULSATING POWER IN SPIDER-MAN #46! BUT TAKE IT FROM US--- YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM AS DANGEROUS AS NOW---

LUCKY FOR **HIM** I USED MY **VIBRO-POWER** AT ITS **WEAKEST** INTENSITY!

HE'LL BE **CONSCIOUS** AGAIN WITHIN A MATTER OF **MINUTES!**

VLLZAAP!

BUT, I'LL HAVE **FOUND** WHAT I SEEK BY THEN!

NO SAFE CAN RESIST MY VIBRATING **BLAST!**

ACCORDING TO THE **NEWS-PAPERS,** THE PRICELESS CLAY **TABLET** SHOULD BE IN HERE---

SINCE **SPIDER-MAN** WAS DUMB ENOUGH NOT TO **KEEP** IT, AND SELL IT FOR **HIMSELF!**

BUT THE **SHOCKER** HAS NO SUCH **SCRUPLES!**

THE TABLET MUST BE **MINE!**

I'M IN **LUCK!**

STACY HASN'T YET **RETURNED** IT TO THE **COLLEGE!**

THIS ANCIENT PIECE OF PETRIFIED **STONE** IS WORTH A **KING'S RANSOM!**

DAD! DAD! WHAT WAS THAT **NOISE??**

IT SOUNDED LIKE PART OF THE **BUILDING** CAVING IN!!

DAD! WHERE **ARE** YOU? WHY DON'T YOU **ANSWER?**

WHAT'S **THAT?** ...**FOOT-STEPS...** RUNNING TOWARDS ME!

A GIRL! MUST BE HIS DAUGHTER!

OH, NO! NO!

YOU'RE IN LUCK, GORGEOUS!

I ALREADY GOT WHAT I WANT... SO I'M CUTTING OUT!

AND NO NEED TO STRAIN YOUR TONSILS...

EXCEPT FOR A HEADACHE, HE'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW!

DAD... WHO WAS HE? WHAT DID HE DO?

I THOUGHT... THE TABLET WOULD BE SAFE... HERE WITH ME!

I DIDN'T COUNT ON BEING ATTACKED... BY SOMEONE AS POWERFUL ...AS THE SHOCKER!

GET TO THE PHONE, DEAR! CALL THE POLICE!

DAD, DIDN'T THE SHOCKER ONCE BATTLE SPIDER-MAN TO A STANDSTILL?

IF HE'S AT LARGE AGAIN...

HOW CAN ANYONE HOPE TO STOP HIM?

WE MUST ADMIT THAT GROOVY GWENDY HAS POSED A MOST INTERESTING QUESTION! BUT, BEFORE TRYING TO ANSWER IT, LET'S VISIT A SEEDY LITTLE PAWNSHOP ON A SEEDY LITTLE SIDE-STREET---

WHOEVER THAT IS OUTSIDE, BEAT IT!

I'M CLOSIN' FOR THE NIGHT!

ZAK!

DON'T COUNT ON IT, MISTER!

THE SHOCKER!

WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?

I'M JUST SMALL POTATOES TO A GUY LIKE YOU!

TO ME YOU'RE NOTHING!

BUT YOU KNOW HOW TO REACH ---THE BIG BOYS!

I WANT YOU TO CONTACT THEM! TELL 'EM I HAVE THE STOLEN TABLET!

I'M GONNA FENCE IT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!

YOU CAN'T! IT'S TOO LATE!

EVER SINCE SPIDER-MAN SNATCHED IT FROM THE KINGPIN HIMSELF, NO ONE'LL TOUCH IT!

IT'S TOO HOT! NO ONE WANTS TO TANGLE WITH THE WALL-CRAWLER AGAIN!

THEY DON'T, HUH?

THWAM!

ZAK!

SO THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE WEB-SLINGER, ARE THEY?

I'LL GIVE 'EM SOMETHING TO REALLY BE SCARED OF!

HA!

AND JUST IN CASE NO ONE GETS THE *MESSAGE*...!

TIKKA-A-A-G!

HOLY SMOKE! IT LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER *RIOT!*

AND IN THE MIDDLE OF *WINTER,* YET!

HELP... POLICE!! ANYONE!!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

...THE PUBLIC IS CAUTIONED TO *AVOID* THE EAST FORTIES...

WHERE POLICE ARE CONDUCTING A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR THE *SHOCKER*...

THE *SHOCKER*... AT *LARGE* AGAIN!

LIKE, DO THEY HAVETA BREAK IN ON THE *SOUL PARADE* JUST ON ACCOUNTA SOME COSTUMED *NUT?*

I THOUGHT HE WAS IN *JAIL*... BUT IF HE'S ON THE *LOOSE* ONCE MORE--

...THEN *SPIDER-MAN* BETTER MAKE THE SCENE... BUT *FAST!*

HEY! HE JUST GOT *ON*... A COUPLE OF *BLOCKS* AGO!

CRAZY TEEN-AGERS!

WHATEVER HAPPENS *NEXT,* BETTER HAPPEN *FAST!*

I FINALLY CONVINCED *AUNT MAY* TO GO SOUTH FOR HER HEALTH...

AND HER TRAIN *LEAVES* IN AN HOUR!

IF I'M NOT *THERE* TO SEE HER OFF...

SHE'LL BE SO *WORRIED* ABOUT ME, THAT SHE WON'T *GO!*

UH OH! SPIDEY SENSE IS STARTING TO *TINGLE!*

THE *SHOCKER* MUST BE NEARBY!

WHILE, BACK AT THE *PAWN SHOP*...

ANY *TRACE* OF HIM, HARRIS?

NOT *YET*, INSPECTOR!

LOOKS LIKE WE JUST *LOST* HIM ON THE ROOFTOPS!

NO TRACE OF THAT *TABLET*, EITHER!

BUT THERE'S A *MILLION* PLACES HE COULD HAVE STASHED IT *AWAY* BY NOW!

IT ALL HAPPENED SO *FAST!*

THE SHOCKER AIN'T *HUMAN!* ---*NO ONE* CAN TAKE 'IM!

MAYBE *NOT*... BUT JUST ABOUT NOW, SOMEONE'S GONNA *TRY*...

HOLD IT, BIG BOY!

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

WHO *SAID* THAT??

I'LL GIVE YOU A *HINT*, MAN...

IT'S *NOT* ARETHA FRANKLIN!

BTOK!

HE'S STILL *CONSCIOUS!*

MUST HAVE USED HIS *VIBRATING POWER* AGAIN, TO *DEFLECT* MY BLOW!

I ALMOST *FORGOT* WHAT A *DEADLY OPPONENT* THE SHOCKER CAN *BE!*

SPIDER-MAN! I *THOUGHT* YOU'D DROP BY!

HE DOESN'T EVEN SOUND *HURT!*

LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, YOU MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH YOUR LIFE!

YOU SHOULD HAVE QUIT... WHILE YOU WERE AHEAD!

ZAK!

THERE'S ONE FOR STARTERS!

ZAK!

ANOTHER BLAST!

HE'S TRYING TO BRING THE CHIMNEY DOWN ON ME!

AHH! YOU'RE AS NIMBLE AS EVER, WALL-CRAWLER!

KRASH!

...NOT THAT IT WILL DO YOU ANY GOOD!

ALTHOUGH I COULD PROBABLY FINISH YOU OFF WITH A SUDDEN DOUBLE BLAST...

I PREFER TO TOY WITH YOU AWHILE!

...FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE!

HE BLASTED A HOLE... IN THE FLOOR OF THE ROOF... BELOW ME!!

I--I'M FALLING!

ZAK!

THWIPP

BUT IF HE THINKS HE'S LOST ME...

HE'D BETTER THINK AGAIN!

WHILE YOU'RE *FALLING*, WEB-HEAD... JUST THOUGHT I'D LET YOU *KNOW*...

I'VE HIDDEN THAT BLASTED *TABLET* IN A PLACE WHERE *NO-BODY'LL* EVER FIND IT AGAIN!

SO YOUR BATTLE WITH THE *KING-PIN* WAS A TOTAL *WASTE* OF TIME

AND BEFORE I FORGET... *HAPPY LANDINGS!*

WHUPPFFF!

SAME TO *YOU*, BIG MOUTH!

THOP!

DESPITE YOUR PUNY *POWERS*, SPIDER-MAN..

IT'S A *PITY* YOU CAN'T *FLY!*

BOK!

WHAT DO I DO *NOW*? DELIVER HIM TO THE *LAW*...

OR HOLD *ON* TO HIM...TILL I LEARN WHERE HE HID THE *TABLET*?

WHATEVER I DO...IT HAD BETTER BE *QUICK*...

IF I DON'T WANT TO MISS *AUNT MAY!*

FUNNY...I DIDN'T THINK THIS JOKER WOULD BE SO *EASY* TO...

I NOTICE YOU'VE THROWN *CAUTION* TO THE WINDS, YOU FOOL!

UH OH! I WAS *RIGHT!*

A DANGEROUS *ERROR*, WHEN BATTLING THE *SHOCKER!*

UP ON THE ROOF... THAT CAT'S FALLING!!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN... TOPPLING TO HIS DEATH!

CLEAR THE STREET!

EVERYONE BACK... GET BACK!!

IT HAPPENED... RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES! NO-THING CAN SAVE... NO!! LOOK!!

I CAN'T LOOK!! I CAN'T LOOK!

IT'S... HIS WEBBING!!

DIDN'T THINK I'D BE THAT EASY, DID YOU?

BUT DON'T FRET, PET...

I'LL COME SWINGIN' UP FOR ROUND TWO BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

OH NO YOU DON'T! I'M WISE TO YOU NOW!

YOU WANNA DELAY ME WHILE THE COPS CORDON OFF THE STREET!

WELL, I'M NOT BUYING!

I'LL FINISH YOU OFF YET.. BUT IT'LL BE ME WHO PICKS THE TIME AND PLACE!

GREAT! IT'S WHAT I HOPED HE'D SAY!

NOW I CAN MAKE THE TRAIN IN TIME!

BUT JUST SO THE SHOCKER WON'T BE LONELY...

I'LL SEND MY LITTLE SPIDEY TRACER ALONG TO KEEP HIM COMPANY!

BY THE TIME THE COPS CAN GET HERE... I'LL BE LONG GONE!

AND, SPEAKING OF SPEEDY DEPARTURES...

THIS MAY BE UN-CONVEN-TIONAL..

BUT IT'S FASTER THAN THE CROSSTOWN BUS!

AND NOW, FOR THE BENEFIT OF *AUNT MAY'S* COUNTLESS *FANS*, WE HAPPILY PRESENT ONE OF THE FEW SCENES WHICH *DOESN'T* SHOW HER AT DEATH'S DOOR---

PETER, DEAR... ARE YOU *SURE* YOU CAN *AFFORD* THIS TICKET TO *FLORIDA* WHICH YOU BOUGHT ME?

YOU *KNOW* IT, AUNT MAY! WITH THE MONEY I GOT FOR THOSE *NEWS PIX* I SOLD TO THE *BUGLE*, I COULD SEND YOU TO THE *MOON*...

...BUT YOU WOULDN'T LIKE THE *ALTITUDE!*

HAVE A *GREAT* TIME...AND SOAK UP GOBS OF *SUN*... LIKE THE DOC *TOLD* YOU TO, HEAR?

AND *REMEMBER*...NO *DISCOTHEQUING* PAST FOUR A.M.... AND DON'T OVERDO THE *JOGGING* AND *KARATE!*

SHE CAN'T *HEAR* ME THRU THE GLASS... BUT SHE GETS THE *MES-SAGE!*

BLESS HER HEART...THIS TRIP'S JUST WHAT SHE *NEEDED!*

SHE'S LOOKING HEALTHIER *ALREADY!*

AS FOR *ME*, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO *FIRST!*

I *STILL* HAVE TO SQUARE MYSELF WITH *GWEN* ...AND THEN ... *HEY!!*

HOW ABOUT *THIS!* SPIDEY FINALLY GOT A *DECENT* WRITE-UP!

THINGS ARE REALLY LOOKING *UP* SINCE *JOLLY JONAH'S* IN THE HOSPI-TAL AND *JOE ROBERTSON* IS RUNNING THE PAPER!

DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN TACKLES SHOCKER!
RISKS LIFE IN VALIANT EFFORT TO CAPTURE

THEN, AS THE AMAZING YOUTH IDLY SCANS THE *REST* OF THE NEWSPAPER, HE SUDDENLY SEES A FATEFUL *ITEM*...

A WRITE-UP ABOUT *DR. CURT CONNORS!*

HE'S WORKING ON SOME NEW, VITAL, HIGHLY-SECRET *EXPERI-MENT* AT HIS LAB IN THE FLORIDA *EVERGLADES!*

IT'S BEEN *MONTHS* SINCE OUR PATHS LAST CROSSED!

HE'S ONE OF THE *GREATEST* MEN I'VE KNOWN!

"BUT, EXCEPT FOR HIS *WIFE*,.. I'M THE ONLY *OTHER* PERSON WHO KNOWS THAT DOC CONNORS IS ALSO--- THE DEADLY, SUPER-POWERFUL *LIZARD!!*"

"HE CAN'T *HELP* BECOMING THE LIZARD--HE DOESN'T *WANT* TO BE THE LIZARD... BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE HIM ANY THE LESS *DANGEROUS!*"

"I STILL *REMEMBER* THE LAST TIME WE *FOUGHT*..!"*

"IT WAS ALMOST THE *END* OF SPIDER-MAN!"

*IF YOU'VE *FORGOTTEN* ISH #45, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR *WORD* FOR IT! ...SNIDE STAN.

"AND, WHAT MADE MY PREDICAMENT *DOUBLY* TOUGH WAS..."

"I KNEW IF I INJURED THE *LIZARD*, I'D BE INJURING *DR. CONNORS!*"

"BUT, I FINALLY *TRICKED* HIM INTO FOLLOWING ME INSIDE A *REFRIGERATED CAR*..."

"WHERE THE SUB-ZERO *TEMPERATURE* MADE HIM *WEAK* ENOUGH FOR ME TO OVERCOME!"

"AND THAT WAS THE *LAST* THAT I, OR ANYONE, EVER AGAIN HEARD OF THE *LIZARD!*"

BUT WOULDN'T IT BE A *GAS* IF I COULD GET A SUMMER JOB... *WORKING* FOR DR. CONNORS?

I COULD LEARN MORE WITH *HIM* THAN IN A *DOZEN* SCIENCE CLASSES!

ANYWAY, WHAT HAVE I GOT TO *LOSE?*

IF I GET A *CHANCE* LATER ON, MAYBE I'LL DROP HIM A *LINE!*

BUT RIGHT *NOW*... I BETTER START CONCEN-TRATING ON THE *SHOCKER* AGAIN!

AND, SPEAKING OF *CONCENTRATION*, LET'S SEE WHAT JOLLY *JONAH JAMESON* IS COGITATING ABOUT RIGHT NOW---

WHAT'S THIS??!! *MY OWN NEWSPAPER CALLING SPIDER-MAN A HERO?!!*

BUGLE DAILY BUG

THE WHOLE G@%!!#!%@??!! *COUNTRY'S* GOING TO THE *DOGS!*

A MAN CAN'T EVEN *ENJOY* HIMSELF IN THE *HOSPITAL* ANYMORE!

I'M GONNA *FIRE* EVERY NIN-COMPOOP ON THAT *PAPER!!*

MR. JAMESON! YOU'RE *DELIRIOUS!*

YOU'RE DING DONG *RIGHT* I AM!

WHEN I FIND OUT WHO *WROTE* THAT STORY..!!

YOU CAN'T *DO* THIS TO ME! GET ME MY *LAWYER!*

YOU'LL NEED AN *UNDERTAKER* IF YOU DON'T *CALM DOWN!*

PRIVA

DOCTOR! DOCTOR! HELP!

HELLO! HELLO! GET ME THE *BUGLE!*

NO! I DON'T *WANT* A DING-BUSTED *MUSIC STORE*...I MEANT THE *DAILY* BUGLE!

NOT BAGLE, DUMMY!! BUGLE!

MR. JAMESON! YOU SIMPLY *MUST* HOLD STILL!

NO! I DON'T WANT A DAD-BLASTED PET SHOP!!

HOW COME YOU DIDN'T GET ME A *PET SHOP*... WHERE THEY SELL *BEAGLES?!!*

GET THAT NIT-WITTED *NEEDLE* AWAY FROM ME!!

NO! NO! I DIDN'T MEAN *YOU!*

I THOUGHT I'D *NEVER* GET THAT *TRANQUILIZER* INTO HIM!

IS HE *ALWAYS* THAT EXCITABLE, DOCTOR?

ONLY WHEN HE'S AWAKE!

WHY DID I BECOME A *PUBLISHER?*

I'M TOO *SENSITIVE*... TOO *GENTLE*... FOR ALL THIS!

NOBODY... *UNDERSTANDS* ME...NOBODY... CARES...NO-BODY... *ZZZZ*

AND NOW THAT WE'VE SHARED A BRIEF *CULTURAL* MOMENT TOGETHER, LET'S RETURN TO OUR HARRASSED *HERO*, WHO SUDDENLY SPIES...

GWEN! GWEN... WAIT UP!

S'MATTER? I'M NOT EVEN GOOD ENOUGH TO *TALK* TO ANYMORE?

OH, *PETER!* I-- I'M *SORRY!*

I'M AFRAID I WAS SO BUSY THINKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY *DAD* ---THAT I DIDN'T *HEAR* YOU!

YOUR *DAD?* WHAT *DID* HAPPEN, GWENDY?

THEN, AFTER A BRIEF EXPLANATION...

HE'S ALL RIGHT *NOW*... BUT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN *KILLED!*

I'VE NEVER *SEEN* ANYONE AS MENACING AS THE *SHOCKER!*

NO? HOW ABOUT... *SPIDER-MAN?*

SPIDER-MAN IS... *DIFFERENT!*

FOR ALL HIS *POWER*... HIS *MYSTERY*... HE'S SOMEHOW *FASCINATING!*

HEY! PERHAPS I SHOULD BE *JEALOUS!*

AT *LAST* SHE'S BEGINNING TO ACT MORE LIKE HER OLD YUMMY *SELF!*

LET'S GRAB A *SODA* TOGETHER LADY!

SURE, PETE... I---

LOOK! IT'S *FLASH THOMPSON!*

WELCOME *HOME,* SOLDIER!

GWEN! I *HOPED* YOU'D BE COMING BY, DOLL!

MAN! ARE *YOU* A SIGHT FOR THESE GAL-HUNGRY EYES!

BUT HOW COME YOU DIDN'T *WRITE* ME MORE OFTEN, BABY?

I THOUGHT *MARY JANE* WAS TAKING CARE OF THAT DEPARTMENT!

HAVE THINGS BEEN *THAT* BAD ON THE HOME FRONT?

AND, I'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF *PETER!*

HEY, JOHN WAYNE... JUST ONE DARN *MINUTE...!*

LAST TIME I SAW YOU, I THOUGHT THE ARMY HAD *CHANGED* YOU!

I COULDA *SWORN* YOU WERE ALMOST TURNING *HUMAN!*

BUT IF YOU THINK THOSE NEW *STRIPES* GIVE YOU THE *RIGHT* TO---

BUG OFF, SONNY BOY!

WHEN I *NEED* A CIVILIAN, I'LL *ASK* FOR ONE!

LOOK, THOMPSON, IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PUT ME DOWN IN FRONT OF MY GIRL---!

PETER! STOP IT! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

FLASH WAS ONLY KIDDING... THE WAY HE USED TO!

MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, PARKER!

MAYBE YOU'RE STILL THE SAME OLD SQUARE I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE!

OKAY...OKAY! MAYBE I WAS TOO UPTIGHT!

BUT NO ONE LIKES TO SEE SOME OTHER GUY MAKING A PLAY FOR HIS GIRL!

FACE IT, FRIEND! ANY JOE WHO DOESN'T MAKE A PLAY FOR THAT CHICK IS READY FOR EMBALMING!

ANYWAY, I'M CUTTING OUT NOW!

THANKS FOR THE WARM WELCOME!

GWEN... I--I'M SORRY!

YOU SHOULD BE, PETER!

FOR A BOY WHO'S ALWAYS MISSING WHEN THERE'S ANY TROUBLE...

IT'S STRANGE HOW HOSTILE YOU CAN BE TO A MAN WHO'S BEEN IN COMBAT!

SO...I CAN NEVER ESCAPE IT!

IN ORDER TO FUNCTION AS SPIDER-MAN, POOR PETER PARKER HAS TO TAKE OFF WHENEVER HE'S NEEDED!

THE OLD IDENTITY CONFLICT IS BACK TO HAUNT ME AGAIN!

SO HOW CAN GWEN HELP BUT THINK OF ME AS A FULL-TIME CHICKEN!

I EVEN CAUGHT THE WAY SHE CALLED ME A BOY, AND FLASH A MAN!

YEP, I REALLY BLEW IT THAT TIME!

AND NOT 'CAUSE FLASH WAS OUT OF LINE...

IT WAS BECAUSE---FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE... I WAS JEALOUS... I WAS SCARED OF LOSING GWEN!

AND, THANKS TO MY STUPID TEMPER... I PROBABLY DID!

NUTS! I'M GONNA TACKLE THE SHOCKER NOW!

I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO MAKE ME FORGET WHAT A JACKASS I'VE BEEN!

IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO ZERO-IN ON MY LITTLE SPIDEY TRACER!

OKAY, SOAP OPERA TIME'S *OVER* NOW! SO HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR...!

HEY, MARTY... *LOOK OUT!*

WHAT IN BLAZES IS *THAT?*

I *DUNNO*... BUT LOOK AT THE *HOLE* IT JUST BLASTED IN *FRONT* OF US!

SKREEECHHH!

ZAK!

SPLOG!

A *SECOND* BLAST!!

IT TORE THE *ARMORED DOOR*... RIGHT OFF ITS *HINGES!!*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS *MONEY,* GENTLEMEN!

I *PROMISE* YOU THAT THE *SHOCKER* WILL PUT IT TO *VERY* GOOD USE!

THE *SHOCKER!!* ...WE... SHOULDA *GUESSED..!*

I HATE TO SPOIL A *GOOD THING* FOR YOU, FELLA...

UNHHH!

BUT THIS KIND OF *ENTRANCE* APPEALS TO MY SENSE OF *DRAMA!*

I'LL SAY *ONE* THING FOR YOU, SHOCKIE...

YOU SURE CAN TAKE YOUR *LUMPS!*

UH OH! HIS COSTUME AUTOMATICALLY *VIBRATED* AGAIN WHEN I *ZONKED* HIM...

ENABLING HIM TO *SHRUG OFF* THE BLOW ONCE MORE!

THAT CRUMMY *VIBRATING POWER* OF HIS MAKES HIM ONE TOUGH COOKIE TO *BEAT!*

I LET YOU *LIVE*, THE *LAST* TIME WE MET! BUT, *NOW*--

I WON'T BE SO *MERCIFUL!*

LUCKY HE *TELEGRAPHED* THAT BLAST!

I WAS ABLE TO LEAP *OVER* IT!

ZAK!

BUT I CAN'T KEEP DODGING *ALL* OF THEM!

ZAK!

THAT ONE WAS *TOO* CLOSE!

THINK, SPIDEY... *THINK!*

PTAK!

OH, NO! THE WHOLE WALL'S COMING DOWN ON ME!

BRRKAUCKK

ZAK!

IF I CAN SHOOT OUT MY WEBS FAST ENOUGH...

I'LL USE THEM TO DEFLECT THE BRICKS!

...AND TO CUSHION MY FALL!

BY THE TIME HE GETS OUT OF THERE...

IF HE EVER DOES...

I'LL BE JUST A MEMORY ...WITH MY WELL-EARNED LOOT!

DON'T BET ON IT, SWEETIE!

THWIPP!

NOW WHAT'S HE DOING?

PTHWAPP!

I CAN FREE MYSELF INSTANTLY!

ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

...BY VIBRO-SHOCKING YOUR WEBS LOOSE!

NOW, TASTE A BLOW DELIVERED WITH VIBRO-SHOCK POWER...

POWER WHICH MAKES IT A DOZEN TIMES MORE POTENT THAN ANY NORMAL PUNCH!

NICE TRY, GUY!

BUT, SINCE I'M AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES STRONGER THAN ANY NORMAL CUT-UP...

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO DOWN ME!

CAREFUL! WE DON'T WANNA HURT OUR TENDER LITTLE CLAWS NOW, DO WE?

HE'S FIGHTING MAD... REACHING UP AT ME AGAIN--!

ZAK!

NOW WASN'T THAT A SILLY THING TO DO?

THUPP!

ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU'VE TRIED TO *MOCK* ME FOR THE *LAST TIME!*

WADDAYA MEAN *TRIED?*

I THOUGHT I DID A PRETTY NEAT *JOB* OF IT!

HAVE TO MOVE *FAST*...

BEFORE HE ZAPS ANOTHER *VIBRO-BLAST* AT ME!

THERE, BIG MAN! YOU CAN'T *HIT* WHAT YOU CAN'T *SEE!*

MY FACE! ...COVERED WITH WEBBING!

KNOW SOMETHING? IT'S AN *IMPROVE-MENT!*

AND *NOW*... LET'S CUT THE KIDDING AROUND...!

BKOP!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE *TOLD* ME HOW YOUR *VIBRO-POWER* DEFLECTS MY BLOWS!

...YOU CONVINCED ME TO USE MY *SUNDAY PUNCH!*

AND HERE IT IS NOT EVEN THE *WEEKEND!* TSK! TSK!

OH, BY THE WAY--- DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO *VIBRATE* YOURSELF LOOSE!

YOU'LL FIND IT AWFULLY *FRUSTRATING*...

...'SPECIALLY SINCE I COPPED YOUR WRIST *POWER UNITS!*

THEY'LL MAKE A SWINGIN' PAIR OF *CUFF LINKS!*

KRRAK! PAK! KRAK!

FOR THE LUVVA MIKE! NOW WHAT??

IT'S THE DRIVER OF THE ARMORED CAR!

HE MUST THINK I WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH THE SHOCKER!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, WEB-SLINGER!

HAND OVER THAT MONEY BAG!

I'D LIKE TO OBLIGE, PAL...

BUT A FELLA GETS MIGHTY TIRED OF BEING A FULL-TIME TARGET!

ANYWAY, IF YOU'LL TAKE A SQUINT AROUND THE CORNER...

YOU'LL REALIZE HOW YOU'VE BEEN WASTING BULLETS!

PTHIK! PTHAK! PTHOK!

IT'S THE SHOCKER... ALL GIFT-WRAPPED AND READY FOR MAILING!

AND HERE'S THE DOUGH HE GRABBED FROM THE TRUCK!

HOW ABOUT THAT? THE WALL-CRAWLER WAS ON THE LEVEL... HE GOT IT BACK FOR US!

SO HOW COME NO ONE EVER TRUSTS 'IM?

AND, THAT'S JUST WHAT SPIDEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW...!

SO I FINALLY NAILED THE SHOCKER... BIG DEAL!

I'M IN THE DOGHOUSE WITH GWEN... THE TABLET IS GONE AGAIN... I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING ELSE...

I FORGOT TO TAKE A SINGLE PICTURE OF THE ENTIRE BATTLE!

SO ALL I GET OUT OF IT IS SOME SKINNED KNUCKLES!

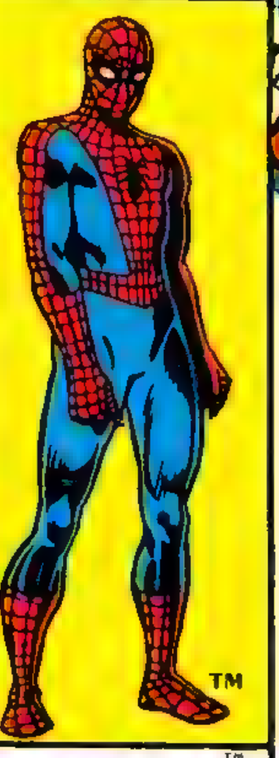
IN OTHER WORDS, THE WONDERFUL PARKER LUCK IS STILL RUNNING TRUE TO FORM! NUTS!

NEXT SPIDEY'S NEWEST SUPER-FOE!

SPIDER-MAN

12¢ IND.

73 JUNE



MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FEATURING: MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO!

ROMITA

THE WEB CLOSES!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

THE WEB CLOSES!

INTRODUCING: THE SENSATIONAL MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO

IT'S **MY** FAULT THAT **CAPTAIN STACY** WAS INJURED BY THE **SHOCKER!**

IF I HADN'T LEFT THAT ANCIENT **TABLET** HERE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BROKEN IN TO **STEAL** IT!

BUT, NOW THAT I SEE THAT GWEN'S **DAD** IS OKAY, I...

UH OH! SOMEONE'S **COMING!**

ARE YOU **COMFORTABLE,** DAD? CAN I **BRING** YOU ANYTHING?

I'M **FINE,** THANKS, HONEY! FEELING AS GOOD AS **NEW** AGAIN!

OKAY...BUT IF YOU **WANT** ANYTHING, JUST **BELLOW,** FELLOW!

IT'S **GWENDY!** **BOY...** SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN A **DOUBLE** DOSE OF **PRETTY PILLS** TODAY!

AUTHORED BY: **STAN** (THE MAN) **LEE**

INNOVATED BY: BIG **JOHN BUSCEMA**

COORDINATED BY: **JOHN** (RING-A-DING) **ROMITA**

ILLUSTRATED BY: **JIM** (MADMAN) **MOONEY**

LETTERED BY: SLEEPY **SAM ROSEN**

BY THE WAY, DAD... I DON'T SUPPOSE **PETER PARKER** HAS CALLED?

WHY, DEAR? WERE YOU **EXPECTING** HIM TO?

WELL, I **DID** THINK THAT HE...

OH, WHY WORRY ABOUT **THAT?** HE'S NOT THE **ONLY** BOY IN THE WORLD!

ANYWAY, I THINK HE'S STILL **ANGRY** ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH **FLASH THOMPSON** YESTERDAY!*

IF HE'S **NOT** THE ONLY BOY IN THE WORLD... WHY DO YOUR **EYES** GLOW THAT WAY WHEN YOU **MENTION** HIM, YOUNG LADY?

JUST **MY** LUCK TO HAVE A FATHER WHO'S AN **EX-DETECTIVE!**

NITEY NITE, MISTER CUPID!

*IF YOU **MISSED** IT LAST ISH, NO SWEAT! IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS MONTH'S FESTIVITIES ANYWAY! *STRAIGHT-TALKIN' STAN.*

WHEW! ONLY A NUT LIKE **ME** WOULD BE HANGING AROUND ON THE **CEILING** WHEN HE COULD HAVE A DREAM-THING LIKE **GWEN** IN HIS ARMS!

WELL, IF THEY EVER GIVE **MEDALS** FOR STUPIDITY... I'LL GET A **CHESTFULL!**

SHE'S **GONE!** I CAN GO **DOWN** NOW!

CAPTAIN STACY ... DON'T BE ALARMED!

I'VE SOMETHING TO **ASK** YOU!

IT'S ABOUT THE STOLEN **TAB-LET!**

SPIDER-MAN!

YOU'VE GOT YOUR **SIGNALS** CROSSED, MISTER...

THIS **ISN'T** GRAND CENTRAL STATION!

JUST BECAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU'RE AS **BAD** AS YOU'RE PAINTED...

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I LIKE HAVING MY **HOUSE** BROKEN INTO!

SORRY ABOUT THAT!

ALL RIGHT... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO **KNOW?**

IT'S ABOUT THE *SHOCKER!*

WHEN HE STOLE THE *TABLET* FROM YOU, DID HE LEAVE ANY *CLUES?*

DID HE *MENTION* ANY PLACE WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE INTENDED TO *HIDE* IT??

I'M AFRAID HE WAS TOO *SMART* FOR THAT!

I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO *CATCH* HIM, AND HAVE HIM *GIFT-WRAPPED* FOR THE COPS...

BUT *NOBODY'S* BEEN ABLE TO LEARN WHERE HE STASHED THE STOLEN *TABLET!*

WHY ARE *YOU* SO INTER-ESTED?

THERE ARE *STILL* SOME DIE-HARDS, LIKE *JONAH JAMESON,* WHO THINK I HAD A HAND IN *STEALING* IT!

THE ONLY WAY I CAN REALLY *CLEAR* MY-SELF IS TO *FIND* THE TABLET AGAIN... AND *RETURN* IT!

BUT, SINCE THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAT YOU CAN *TELL* ME...

AND SINCE I FORGOT TO BRING MY *CRYING TOWEL*...

THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS *ANY* FOR ME TO *SPLIT!*

WAIT!

I JUST *REMEMBER* SOMETHING...

THE *SHOCKER* USED TO HAVE A *GIRL FRIEND!*

SHE PAID HIS *BAIL* ONCE OR TWICE!

WHAT BETTER PLACE TO HIDE THE TABLET THAN WITH *HER??*

TALK *FASTER,* MAN!

IT'S *DRAFTY* OUT HERE!

SHE USED TO BE IN *SHOW BUSINESS*... CALLED HER-SELF AN *EXOTIC DANCER!*

SHE LIVED SOMEWHERE ON THE *WEST SIDE*... NEAR THE *THEATRE DISTRICT!*

KNOW SOMETHING? YOU'RE A REGULAR *EARL WILSON!*

THANKS FOR THE *INFO,* CAP! SEE YOU AROUND!

IF YOU RUN INTO *TROUBLE*... CALL THE *POLICE!*

DON'T TAKE THE *LAW* INTO YOUR OWN HANDS!

OH, *PERISH FORBID!*

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND ONE SPECIAL FEMALE IN A CITY OF MILLIONS!

AND I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO ASK IF HE KNEW HER NAME!

OH WELL... IT'LL BE MORE SPORTING THIS WAY!

AT LEAST STACY NARROWED IT DOWN TO ONE NEIGHBORHOOD!

THEN, AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR OF WEARISOME WEB-SWINGING...

AT LAST! MY SPIDEY SENSE IS STARTING TO TINGLE!

SO...IF IT ISN'T A FALSE ALARM...

I SHOULD BE ON TO SOMETHING!

THE TINGLING GETS STRONGER AS I COME CLOSER TO THAT WINDOW BELOW!

BUT WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET I HEAR?

SOUNDS LIKE SOME KINDA FIGHT!

VOICES... YELLING ABOUT A *HIDDEN TABLET!*

FOR ONCE I'M IN *LUCK!* I *FOUND* IT FIRST CRACK OUT OF THE BOX!

UH OH--- *WAIT* A MINUTE!

MAYBE I'M *NOT* SO LUCKY! LOOK AT THE *SIZE* OF THAT GUY!!

I TELL YOU I DON'T *KNOW* ANYTHING!

THE *SHOCKER* NEVER GAVE ME ANY *TABLET!*

YOU'VE... *GOT* TO BELIEVE ME!

MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE *NOTHIN',* SISTER!

THE *MAGGIA'S* TOP BRASS GOT WAYS OF FINDING THINGS *OUT,* SEE?

AND *THEY* SAY THE SHOCKER STASHED THAT HUNKA STONE HERE WITH *YOU!*

AND THEY DON'T *PAY* ME TO TAKE *NO* FOR AN ANSWER!

BUT---IF THE *SHOCKER* EVER LEARNS ...THAT I *DOUBLE-CROSSED* HIM---

YOU MEAN *THAT'S* WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT?

HE'S ALL TUCKED AWAY IN *JAIL* NOW, AIN'T HE?

BUT *ME...* I'M ON THE *LOOSE!*

AND I AIN'T *LEAVIN'* TILL I GET WHAT I *CAME* FOR!!

NO! NO! DON'T..!!

RELAX, SISTER! YOU AIN'T GONNA GET HURT---

PROVIDIN' I FIND THAT TABLET!

IT'S GOTTA BE HIDDEN HERE SOMEWHERE!

HOLD IT, BIG MAN! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT INFLATION?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT COSTS TO UPHOLSTER A CHAIR NOWADAYS?

YOU---TORE THAT HEAVY SEAT APART... WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!

SPIDER-MAN!!

YA THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?

WELL, I DID SORT OF NURTURE THAT HOPE!

YOU'RE A REAL WISE-GUY, HUH?

WELL, WISE-GUYS BUG ME, SEE?

AND MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO DON'T LIKE TO BE BUGGED

ZOK

STILL AWAKE, HUH?

WELL, DON'T WORRY, SHORTY...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT REAL FAST!

HEY!

MAN-MOUNTAIN, HUH?

BLAM!

TO ME, CHARLIE... YOU'RE JUST AN ANT-HILL!

NOW, LADY... ABOUT THAT TABLET--!!

IF YOU'LL GIVE IT TO ME... YOUR TROUBLES WILL BE OVER!

YOU... HANDLED THAT GIANT... LIKE HE WAS A TOY!!

YOU'RE ...AS DANGER-OUS...AS THEY SAY YOU ARE!

AWW, I'M JUST A PUSSY-CAT WHEN YOU GET TO KNOW ME!

THE POOR GAL'S *TERRIFIED!*

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S *ME*... ...OR FEAR OF THE *SHOCKER* IN CASE SHE GIVES UP THE *TABLET!*

I'VE GOT TO *CALM* HER DOWN, SOMEHOW!

LOOK, MISS... THE *SHOCKER* CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR GIVING UP THE *TABLET!*

SINCE I ONCE MANAGED TO GET IT AWAY FROM *HIM*...

HE WOULDN'T EXPECT *YOU* TO HAVE ANY *BETTER* LUCK!

HE THOUGHT I'D BE OUT FOR *GOOD!*

WELL, HE'S GOT A *LOT* TO LEARN ABOUT MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO'S *POWER!*

I'LL TACKLE HIM *NOW*.. WHILE HE'S TRYIN' TO CON THE *CHICK!*

THRPP!

THIS MAKES US *EVEN,* PANTY-WAIST!

WE *HATE* TO CUT OUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS, BUT WE JUST *REMEMBERED*... THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* GOING ON ACROSS TOWN WHICH WILL HAVE A GREAT EFFECT ON SPIDEY'S *LIFE*...!

FIRST THE *KINGPIN* STOLE THAT BLASTED *TABLET*...THEN *SPIDER-MAN* GOT IT...THEN THE *SHOCKER*...AND *NOW,* WHO KNOWS?

MAYBE I WAS A *FOOL* TO WORK FOR THE KINGPIN!

I GUESS HE'LL ALLOW ME TO *LANGUISH* IN HERE!

OKAY, WILSON.. *LOOK ALIVE!*

CLICK!

NOW WHAT?

WE NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE *WORTH* THAT MUCH TO ANYONE...

BUT SOMEONE JUST POSTED YOUR *BAIL!*

YOU MEAN... I'M GOING *FREE?!!*

SO THE KINGPIN *DID* COME THRU FOR ME *AFTER* ALL!

I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN* I'M MUCH TOO *VALUABLE* TO BE JUST *WRITTEN-OFF!*

GUESS *AGAIN,* MISTER!

IT *WASN'T* THE KINGPIN!

BUT THEN... *WHO?*

THE NAME IS CICERO... *CAESAR CICERO!*

GET YOUR THINGS AND *FOLLOW ME,* WILSON!

I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY!

IF YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH A CHARACTER LIKE *HIM,* I'M FIGURING YOU'LL BE *BACK* HERE PRETTY SOON!

WHY NOT THINK IT *OVER,* WILSON?

MISTER, I'D TAKE OFF WITH *TYPHOID MARY* JUST TO GET *OUT* OF HERE!

CAESAR CICERO! YOU'RE THE BIG-TIME MOUTHPIECE FOR THE *MAGGIA!*

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BAIL *ME* OUT?

HMM...YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY A *CHATTERBOX,* ARE YOU?

THE CAR'S *WAITIN',* BIG C!

NOW *LISTEN* GOOD! I DON'T *REPEAT* THINGS!

YOU WERE THE KINGPIN'S BIGGEST *BRAIN!*

SO *YOU* KNOW MORE ABOUT THE *TABLET* THAN ANYONE!

THE *TABLET??* BUT..I DON'T *HAVE* IT!

YEAH ...WE *KNOW!*

BUT IT'LL SOON BE *OURS!* AND WHEN IT *IS...*

BUT I... I DON'T *KNOW* THE SECRET!

THEN THAT'S JUST *TOO BAD* ---FOR *YOU!*

SOMEONE'S GOTTA TELL US WHAT ITS *SECRET* IS!

AND THAT'S WHERE *YOU* COME IN!

AND NOW, BELIEVER--- BACK TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND...

I'M BEGINNIN' TO LOSE MY PATIENCE, LADY!

KRASK!

IF I DON'T LATCH ONTO THAT TABLET PRETTY SOON..!

HEY! WAIT, A MINUTE!

WELL, WELL! NOW AIN'T THIS REAL CLEVER ?!!

A COZY LITTLE WALL SAFE, JUST MINDIN' ITS OWN BUSINESS ...BEHIND A TWO-BIT PAINTING!

NO! YOU MUSTN'T OPEN IT! NO!

CLAM UP, SISTER... AND I MEAN NOW!

I CAN RIP THIS TOY OUTTA THE WALL WITH ONE HAND, JUST LIKE ---HEY!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN TO QUIT?

SURE, BIG MOUTH... BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME!

IT AIN'T, HUH?

YOU HALF-PINT PUNK---I'LL MOP UP THE PLACE WITH YA!

WHEN I'M FINISHED THIS TIME, THEY'LL HAVETA SCOOP YA UP WITH A BLOTTER!

GOLLY GEE! I WISH YOU WOULDN'T TALK THAT WAY!

IT'S HARD FOR A FELLA TO FIGHT WHEN HE'S TREMBLING IN FEAR!

BUT, I'LL TRY TO **CONTROL** MY LITTLE SURGE OF **PANIC**... AS ANY STALWART SUPER-HERO **SHOULD!**

YOU'RE REAL CUTE WITH THE **WORDS,** MASKED MAN---BUT IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN **THEM** TO GET YOU OUTTA **THIS!**

WHEW! WHAT DO THEY **FEED** THIS JOKER? HE'S AS **STRONG** AS A **BULL!**

GET **ME** OUT? I THOUGHT **YOU** WERE THE ONE WHO NEEDED A HELPING HAND!

AND, SPEAKING OF **HELPING HANDS**...

I'LL BE GLAD TO **CONTRIBUTE** A COUPLE...

SO LONG AS YOU KEEP **GETTING** THEM **KNUCKLES UP!**

THIS IS **RIDICULOUS!**

I KEEP **SOCKING** ---AND HE KEEPS **STANDING!**

BRAK!

AWRIGHT, WALL-CRAWLER ---NOW THE PARTY'S **OVER!**

THIS WOULD PUT A CHARGIN' **ELEPHANT** TO SLEEP!

IF THEY HAD ANY **BRAINS,** THEY'DA **GIVEN** ME WHAT I WANTED RIGHT OFF THE **BAT!**

IT WOULDA SAVED **EVERY-ONE** A LOTTA **TROUBLE!**

'CAUSE **MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO** ALWAYS **GETS** WHAT HE'S AFTER!

THIS IS YOUR *LUCKY DAY*, WEBHEAD!

IF I HADN'T FOUND THE *TABLET*, I MIGHTA *REALLY* GOT MAD AT YA!

TOO BAD THE *DAME* AIN'T GONNA BE SO *LUCKY!*

WHA--WHAT DID YOU *MEAN* BY THAT??

I DON'T HAVETA WORRY ABOUT *SPIDER-MAN*... *HE* CAN'T GO BLABBIN' TO THE COPS ANY MORE'N *I* CAN!

BUT THEY MIGHT *LISTEN* TO A PIGEON LIKE *YOU*...

AND LADY...YOU *KNOW* TOO MUCH!

MARKO, I'M *SURPRISED* AT YOU!

DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S *IMPOLITE* TO THREATEN A FEMALE?

IF YOU'RE *STILL* SPOILING FOR A *FIGHT*...

HOW ABOUT TRYING *ME* FOR SIZE?

BUT, LEST YOU THINK THAT SPIDEY'S THE *ONLY* GENT IN THE WORLD WITH TROUBLES, LET'S SEGUE OVER TO THE *DAILY BUGLE* FOR A MINUTE OR TWO, WHERE WE FIND...

I'VE *ALWAYS* GIVEN YOU YOUR *HEAD*, SON---LET YOU DO WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS *BEST!*

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO QUITTING *SCHOOL*, I DRAW THE *LINE!*

A MAN WITHOUT AN *EDUCATION* IS LIKE...

I KNOW... I KNOW! I *HEARD* IT ENOUGH!

BUT WHAT'S THE *POINT* BEIN' A SUCCESS IN *WHITEY'S* WORLD?

WHY MUST WE PLAY BY *HIS* RULES?

THE RULES ARE THE *SAME*, RANDY...NO MATTER *WHO* THE PLAYERS ARE...NO MATTER *WHERE* THE GAME IS PLAYED!

YOU WANNA BE A *MILITANT*... *FINE!* MAYBE WE NEED *MORE* OF THAT STRIPE!

BUT THE NAME OF THE GAME IS *POWER*, SON...

AND *EDUCATION* IS THE *GREATEST* POWER OF ALL!

THE WHOLE WORLD'S *CHANGING*, RANDY...AND MAYBE THE PARADE'S JUST *PASSING* ME BY!

BUT I STILL WANT WHAT'S *BEST* FOR MY PEOPLE ...WHAT'S BEST FOR *YOU!*

JUST OUTSIDE THAT *DOOR* ...ALL *AROUND* US...*EVERY-WHERE*...THERE'S A *WAR* GOING ON...

A WAR AGAINST *BIGOTRY, INJUSTICE* AND *WANT!*

IT TAKES *WEAPONS* TO FIGHT A WAR, SON...

AND *WITHOUT EDUCATION*...YOU'RE A SOLDIER *UNARMED!*

LOOK, DAD...I *DIG* WHAT YOU SAY...

AND I KNOW YOU'VE GOT IT *MADE* HERE IN WHITEY'S WORLD!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE *OTHER* BROTHERS WHO PLAYED IT YOUR WAY...WHO *GOT* THEIR SHEEPSKINS...AND *STILL* CAN'T MAKE IT ON THE OUTSIDE?

I... WASN'T PROMISING... *UTOPIA!*

ROBERTSON! WHERE'S *ROBERTSON??*

AH *HA!!* *THERE* YOU ARE!

YOU *QUISLING!* YOU *BENEDICT ARNOLD!*

YOU MADE A *HERO* OUT OF *SPIDER-MAN* WHEN MY *BACK* WAS TURNED!

NOW *WHOA*, JJ ...SIMMER DOWN!

THE *BUGLE'S* SUPPOSED TO TELL IT LIKE IT *IS*, RIGHT?

WRONG!! YOU *KNOW* HOW THE BUGLE FEELS ABOUT THAT WEB-SLINGING *WEASEL*... YOU KNOW HOW *I* FEEL ABOUT HIM!!

SURE! SO WRITE ALL THE *EDITORIALS* YOU WANT...IT'S *YOUR* PAPER!

BUT THE *NEWS* COLUMNS ARE *MY* DEPARTMENT!

AND I *CALL* 'EM AS I *SEE* 'EM!

YOU THINK I CAN'T *FIRE* YOU?

YOU WON'T *HAVE* TO SACK ME, MAN!

IF YOU WANT THE NEWS *DISTORTED*, BECAUSE OF YOUR *OWN* PARANOIC VENDETTA...GET YOURSELF *ANOTHER* JOE!

WITH HIS WHOLE *FUTURE* AT STAKE...EVERYTHING HE'S SPENT A LIFETIME *WORKING* FOR...

DAD'S STANDING RIGHT *UP* TO HIM!

NOW *WAIT* ONE DING-DONG *MINUTE* THERE, ROBBIE!

I *ACCEPT* YOUR APOLOGY!!

DUNNO WHAT'S GOTTEN *INTO* YOU ANYWAY!

USED TO BE A MAN COULD *ENJOY* BLOWIN' HIS TOP ONCE IN A WHILE!

'SPECIALLY WHEN HE *OWNED* THE PLACE!!

DUNNO WHAT THE WORLD'S *COMING* TO THESE DAYS...

JUST REMEMBER *ONE* THING FROM NOW ON...

I PAY YOUR SALARY HERE... NOT THAT CRUMMY *WEBHEAD!*

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, DAD!

WHY SHOULD YOU HAVETA TAKE ALL THAT *BULL* FROM A *RACIST* LIKE HIM?

AND THAT'S WHAT *I* MEAN, SON! YOU'VE GOT A GOOD BRAIN... *USE* IT!

JAMESON IS *NO MORE* A RACIST THAN *LITTLE EVA!*

HE'S A BIG, BLUNDERING *BLOWHARD* WITH A HANG-UP ABOUT *SPIDER-MAN!*

BUT JUST 'CAUSE HE'S *WHITE*, IT DOESN'T MAKE HIM A *RACIST!*

WE'LL NEVER GET *ANYWHERE* TILL WE RECOGNIZE WHO OUR *REAL* ENEMIES ARE!

HOWEVER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, A CERTAIN YOUNG LADY HAS ABSOLUTELY *NO PROBLEM* IN BEING ABLE TO TELL WHO *HER* ENEMY IS! VOILÁ...

YELL *LOUDER*, SISTER...SO *SPIDER-MAN'LL* HEAR YA!

NO! YOU *CAN'T!* *NO!*

HELP!! SOMEBODY... *HELP!*

GO *ON*, HALF-PINT... HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A *HERO!*

I HAVE TO REACH THAT *WINDOW* IN TIME!

NOW!

NICE TRY, LITTLE MAN!

BUT NOT NICE *ENOUGH!*

HAH! I FIGGERED YOU'D GO OUT THE WINDOW, TRYIN' TO SAVE 'ER!

WELL, LOTS OF LUCK, MASKED MAN! YER SURE GONNA NEED IT!

NO MATTER HOW YA MAKE OUT... I'M THE WINNER!

I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR!

SHE HASN'T REACHED THE GROUND YET!

IF I CAN JUST SHOOT MY WEB FAST ENOUGH...!

THWIPP!

GOT HER!

EASY NOW... EEEEASY!

I ONLY HAD TIME TO SHOOT OUT A REAL THIN STRAND!

IT JUST HAS TO HOLD!

THEN, A FEW STRENUOUS, SUSPENSEFUL SECONDS LATER...

YOU'LL BE OKAY NOW, MISS...

WHICH IS MORE THAN THEY'LL SAY ABOUT THAT MAN-MOUNTAIN... WHEN I CATCH UP WITH HIM!

THE ROOM'S EMPTY INSIDE...WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO STILL BE THERE!

AND NOW, WHILE SPIDEY CATCHES HIS BREATH... LET'S SHIFT OUR SCENE ONCE MORE...

YOU SAY YOU WANT TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE TABLET!

SO I BRING YOU A MAN WHO CAN HELP TO DO IT!

YOU...YOU'RE THE MAN CALLED SILVERMANE...!

ONE OF THE LAST OF THE LEGENDARY, OLD-TIME LEADERS OF... THE MAGGIA!

AND YOU ARE BUT A WORTHLESS PAWN OF THE KINGPIN!

SO, CAESAR! ONCE AGAIN YOU ACTED WITHOUT MY ORDERS!

ONCE AGAIN YOU TRY TO SHOW THAT YOU ARE MORE SUITED FOR LEADERSHIP THAN THE AGING SILVER-MANE!

AND, PERHAPS YOU ARE... PERHAPS YOU ARE!

I AM OLD... AND I AM TIRED...

BUT THIS I TELL YOU, CAESAR...

SO LONG AS I DO LIVE... IT IS I WHO LEAD... AND YOU WHO FOLLOW!

NOW GO! I KNOW YOU ARE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO YOUR PLOTTING...

SINCE YOU ARE HERE, WILSON, YOU WILL REMAIN!

AS YOU SCHEME ANEW FOR A MEANS TO DEPOSE ME!

AND WHAT ABOUT ME?

THE TABLET IS ON ITS WAY... WE WILL STUDY IT TO-GETHER!

NOT EVEN YOU CAN ORDER ME ABOUT THIS WAY, SILVERMANE!

DO NOT PROVOKE ME, CAESAR!

I AM OLD ...BUT THE POWER STILL IS MINE!

I GOT IT, BOSS! I SNATCHED IT OUTTA THE GIRL'S APART-MENT!

NOT EVEN SPIDER-MAN COULD STOP ME!

IT'S THE ANCIENT TABLET... THE MOST PRICELESS STONE OF ALL TIME!

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MARKO!

BUT I KNEW YOU WOULD NOT FAIL ME!

WHAT MAKES THAT CRUMMY HUNKA ROCK SO VALUABLE, SILVERMANE?

THAT, MY GIGANTIC UNDERLING, IS WHAT I SOON INTEND TO LEARN!

WILSON! STUDY IT... MAKE CERTAIN IT IS GENUINE!

IT'S THE McCOY, ALL RIGHT! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE!

WHAT DO ALL THEM NUTTY-LOOKIN' SCRATCHES ON IT MEAN?

THEY ARE ANCIENT HEIRO-GLYPHICS...

WHICH NO MAN HAS YET BEEN ABLE TO TRANSLATE!

BUT, THEY ARE THE KEY TO ONE OF THE GREATEST SECRETS OF ALL TIME!

YEAH? AND WHAT'S THAT, BOSS?

AHH... IF I TOLD YOU, THEN IT WOULD BE A SECRET NO LONGER!

BUT, SINCE THE NAME OF THE MAG IS *SPIDER-MAN*, LET'S SEE WHAT OUR SWINGIN' SUPER-HERO IS *DOING* RIGHT NOW---

IT WOULD TAKE ME A *WEEK* TO COVER THE WHOLE CITY, STREET BY STREET---

AND EVEN *THEN*, THERE'D BE NO GUARANTEE OF FINDING *MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO!*

MY BEST BET IS TO *HANG LOOSE* ---AND WAIT TILL I GET A *LEAD!*

ONE THING'S FOR SURE... IT WON'T BE *EASY* FOR A JOKER LIKE *HIM* TO STAY *HIDDEN* FOR LONG!

SO I MIGHT AS WELL HEAD FOR *HOME* NOW!

NO ONE'S APT TO *SEE* ME SWINGING INTO THE WINDOW AT *THIS* TIME OF NIGHT!

AND EVEN IF THEY *DID*... WHAT WOULD THEY *DO* ABOUT IT?

LOOKS LIKE *HARRY'S* OUT ON ANOTHER *DATE!*

BOY... NOTHING'S *BETTER* FOR A DOUBLE-IDENTITY DO-GOODER THAN A REAL *PLAY-BOY* ROOM-MATE!

BUT, SPEAKING OF *PLAYBOYS*... IT'S ABOUT TIME I DUG UP SOME MORE *DOUGH* TO PAY FOR AUNT MAY'S FLORIDA *VACATION!*

I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE ANY GOOD *PIX* LATELY, AND...

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE...!

I JUST *REMEMBERED* ...I'VE BEEN WANTING TO CALL *DR. CONNORS* ...DOWN IN FLORIDA!

IT WOULD BE A *GAS* IF I COULD GET A *SUMMER JOB,* WORKING FOR HIM!

NOT ONLY WOULD I BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER *AUNT MAY*...

BUT I COULD LEARN MORE *NATURAL SCIENCE* FROM *CURT CONNORS* THAN ANYONE I KNOW!

I'LL JUST *INVEST* IN ONE LONG-DISTANCE *CALL!*

HE'S USUALLY WORKING IN HIS *LAB* LATE AT NIGHT!

OH! SORRY I *WOKE* YOU, MRS. CONNORS!

WHAT? YOU SAY THE DOC ISN'T *THERE?*

HE JUST *LEFT* UNEXPECTEDLY WITH A COUPLE OF *MEN*... WHOM YOU'VE NEVER *SEEN* BEFORE?

WELL, I.. I'M SORRY I *BOTHERED* YOU!

STRANGE... DOC CONNORS ALMOST *NEVER* LEAVES HIS LAB IN THE *EVERGLADES!*

HE KNOWS THE *DANGER*... IN CASE SOMETHING SHOULD GO *WRONG* AGAIN...

--IF HE SHOULD HAPPEN TO TURN INTO... THE *LIZARD!*

SOMEHOW, I CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY *MIND*...

AND I CAN'T STOP *WONDERING* WHO THOSE TWO *MEN* WERE...

OR WHERE HE *WENT* WITH THEM... IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ...OR *WHY??*

love Gwen

HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT *WE* SHALL LEARN THE ANSWER BEFORE *PETER PARKER* DOES, AS WE RETURN TO THE LUXURIOUS HEADQUARTERS OF THE MAN CALLED *SILVERMANE*...

SO...YOU WANT THE SECRET OF THE *TABLET*, EH?

ALL IT TOOK WAS *ONE* PHONE CALL TO OUR BOYS DOWN *SOUTH*...

TO GET THEM TO PUT *DR. CONNORS* ON THE FIRST PLANE TO NEW YORK!

AGAIN YOU PROVE YOURSELF MORE CAPABLE OF *DE-CISION* THAN THE AGED *SILVER-MANE*, EH, MY FRIEND?

I PROVE *NOTHING*... EXCEPT MY LOYALTY TO THE *MAGGIA!*

THE *MAGGIA!!* WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH *ME?*

LOOK... I'M JUST A DIME-A-DOZEN *RESEARCH SCIENTIST* FROM THE EVERGLADES!

YOU *UNDERESTIMATE* YOURSELF, DOCTOR! YOU ARE *JUST* THE MAN WE *NEED!*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *AFTER*, BUT YOU GRABBED YOURSELF THE *WRONG* MAN!

BUT YOU CAN'T *KEEP* ME HERE! IT... IT ISN'T *SAFE!*

IS THAT A *FACT?*

AND JUST *WHY* ISN'T IT SAFE, CONNORS?

I... CAN'T *ANSWER* THAT!!

NEXT

ALL *BEDLAM* BREAKS LOOSE!

SPIDER-MAN
12¢ IND.
74 JULY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FEATURING:
THE FANTASTIC
SECRET
OF THE
PETRIFIED
TABLET!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

IF THIS BE BEDLAM!

YOU BETTER DO WHAT SILVERMANE WANTS, SEE?

EVEN IF YA DON'T CARE ABOUT YOURSELF... REMEMBER...

WE ALSO "INVITED" YER WIFE AND KID UP HERE TO KEEP YA COMPANY!

SO, IF THE OLD MAN WANTS YA TO TRANSLATE THAT TABLET OF HIS...

--YOU BETTER START TRANSLATIN'!

MARKO! YOU MUST NOT YET HARM HIM!

THE MAGGIA HAS MUCH USE FOR DR. CONNORS!

STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW THE DANGER!

YOU DON'T REALIZE... WHAT CAN HAPPEN!

STAN (The MAN) LEE, SCRIPT WRITER
JOHNNY (RING-A-DING) ROMITA, INNOVATOR
JIM (MADMAN) MOONEY, ILLUSTRATOR
SAM (ROSY) ROSEN, LETTERER
...ALL REQUEST YOU TO ENJOY THIS DAZZLING DONNYBROOK!

MARKO! IF YOU INJURE HIM, HE WILL BE USELESS TO US!

LOOK... IF YA WANNA CONVINCE THE PUNK--- LEMME DO IT MY WAY!

AIN'T NOBODY CAN ROUGH A GUY UP LIKE MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO!

JUST STAND BACK, SILVER-MANE...AND I'LL SHOW YA!

THAP!

YOU THINK YOU SPEAK TO SOME CHEAP, STREET-CORNER HOOD?

I MAY BE OLD ...BUT I AM STILL LEADER HERE!

NO ONE BUT SILVER-MANE GIVES THE ORDERS!

YOU HAD NO CALL TO SHAME ME THAT WAY... IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY!

WE WILL SPEAK OF IT NO MORE!

I MUST... PAUSE, FOR A MOMENT! THE EXERTION HAS ...CAUSED MY PAIN ...TO RETURN!

A PITY... THAT CAESAR CICERO... IS NOT HERE!

HOW MY SCHEMING RIVAL WOULD ENJOY... THIS EVIDENCE OF... AN OLD MAN'S FRAILTY!

SECONDS LATER...

THE PAIN HAS SUBSIDED... BUT WE HAVE LOST TOO MUCH TIME!

THE TABLET! GIVE IT TO CONNORS! WE MUST BEGIN AT ONCE!

ARE YA DONE WITH ME, SILVERMANE?

I'M ITCHIN' TO GO OUT 'N TANGLE WITH SPIDER-MAN AGAIN!

NO! HERE YOU WILL STAY ...TILL I DISMISS YOU!

OKAY! BUT NEXT TIME I LEAN ON 'IM... IT'LL BE FOR GOOD!

MARKO! YOU WILL STAND GUARD, OUTSIDE THE DOOR!

I WILL LEAVE WILSON, OUR OTHER CAPTIVE, IN HERE WITH YOU!

AND I WARN YOU BOTH... THE MAGGIA DOES NOT TOLERATE FAILURE!

CONNORS! YOU MAY HAVE FREE USE OF THIS FULLY-EQUIPPED LABORATORY!

YOU HAVE 24 HOURS TO TELL ME THE SECRET OF THE ANCIENT TABLET!

SO LONG AS MY WIFE... MY SON ...ARE HOSTAGES ...I MUST COMPLY!

THIS IS INSANE! NO ONE CAN TRANSLATE THIS TABLET!

SOME OF THE GREATEST HIEROGLYPHIC EXPERTS IN THE WORLD HAVE TRIED IT!

SHUT UP, WILSON! YOU'RE BABBLING LIKE A HYSTERICAL CHILD!

MY EX-BOSS...THE KINGPIN...SPENT A FORTUNE TRYING TO LEARN THE SECRET!

THERE IS FAR GREATER DANGER HERE ...THAN YOU SUSPECT!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CONNORS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S STARTING TO HAPPEN AGAIN... JUST AS I FEARED!

BUT I MUST FIGHT IT... I MUST REMAIN NORMAL... I CAN'T CHANGE...TO THE LIZARD ...NOT NOW... NOT NOW!

YOUR FACE! THAT LOOK OF PAIN!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MAN??

MARTHA AND BILLY...IF I CAN JUST KEEP THINKING OF THEM...CONCENTRATING ON THEM... IF I CAN DRIVE EVERYTHING ELSE FROM MY MIND...!

IT...IT WORKED! THE MOMENT PASSED! MY FINGERS ARE HUMAN ONCE MORE!

BUT...FOR HOW LONG? FOR HOW LONG??

IT'S NOTHING, WILSON! JUST...A HEAD-ACHE!

AND NOW... I'VE GOT TO WORK...AS I'VE NEVER WORKED BEFORE!

I'VE *HEARD* ABOUT THE TABLET...AND *READ* ABOUT IT!

WHATEVER FANTASTIC *SECRET* IT CONTAINS...HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH *BIOLOGY*... WITH THE MYSTERY OF *LIFE* ITSELF!

THEN *THAT'S* WHY THEY CAPTURED *YOU*... BECAUSE YOU'RE A *BIOLOGIST!*

BUT, WHAT DO WE DO *NEXT?* HOW DO WE UNRAVEL THE *SECRET?*

LET *ME* WORRY ABOUT THAT!

JUST TAKE OFF YOUR *COAT* ...AND STAND BY TO *HELP!*

SOME TIME LATER, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...

HUH?? ONE OF MY *PAPERS*... FLOATING *UP*... INTO THE *AIR!*

AND A *DIME*...COMING *DOWN*...OUT OF *NOWHERE!!*

NEWSPAPERS

NO...NOT EXACTLY OUT OF *NOWHERE*...AS WE SHALL SEE..

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE *BUGLE* THAT'LL GIVE ME A LEAD ON *MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO!*

SAY! WHAT'S *THIS*...?

SOMEONE SPRUNG THE *KINGPIN'S* RIGHT-HAND MAN!

BUT... IT DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE*..!

IT WASN'T *FAT STUFF* WHO PUT UP THE BAIL...

IT WAS *CAESAR CICERO* ...THE BIG-TIME *MAGGIA* MOUTHPIECE! BUT... *WHY?*

KINGPIN'S CRIME LIEUTENANT BAILED OUT BY MAGGIA LAWYER

POLICE PONDER CONNECTION

LOUIS WILSON

CAESAR CICERO

I REMEMBER *MARKO* SAYING IT WAS A *MAGGIA* TIP THAT LED HIM TO THE TABLET!

AND SO... IF THE *SYNDICATE'S* MIXED UP IN THIS...

...THEN *CAESAR CICERO* IS THE LEAD I *WANT!*

HIS *OFFICE* IS JUST BELOW!

I'M IN *LUCK!* HE'S JUST *LEAVING!*

ANOTHER FEW MINUTES AND I'D HAVE *MISSED* HIM!

IT *FIGURES* THEY'D NICK-NAME HIM *BIG C...*

HE CAN'T BE MORE THAN *FIVE* FEET TALL!

FORGIVE THE *FLAMBOYANCY*, COUNSELOR...

BUT I'M JUST AN OLD *SHOW-MAN* AT HEART!

WHA..?? THE *SPIDER SIGNAL!!*

GLAD YOU NOTICED IT *FAST*, BIG C!

I NEVER KNOW *WHEN* THESE DIME STORE *BATTERIES* 'LL GO DEAD!

SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH *ME?*

JUST A LITTLE *CONVERSATION*, MISTER!

WEB-SWINGING AROUND TOWN CAN MAKE A FELLA MIGHTY *LONELY!*

SO HOW ABOUT ANSWERING A FEW SIMPLE *QUESTIONS?*

QUESTIONS?? ABOUT *WHAT?*

WOULDJA BELIEVE... *MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO* ...AND A CERTAIN STOLEN *TABLET?*

FTIK!

NOW WHAT DID YOU WANNA DO *THAT* FOR?

ALL THAT IT *MEANS* IS... YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW EVEN *FASTER* THAN EVER!

NO! I CANNOT BETRAY THE *MAGGIA!*

WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A FAILURE TO *COMMUNICATE!*

NOW LOOK... I KNOW THAT MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO WORKS FOR THE MAGGIA...

AND YOU HAPPEN TO BE THEIR TOP LEGAL EAGLE!

SO ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL ME WHERE TO FIND HIM!

--AND I'LL SKIP OFF INTO THE NIGHT... WIGGLING MY WEBBING BEHIND ME!

I CAN'T TELL YOU--- I CAN'T!

AWW-- TRY!

UH OH! THERE GOES MY SPIDEY SENSE... TINGLING LIKE SIXTY!

CICERO'S GOON SQUAD MUST BE JET PROPELLED!

A BOOKCASE DOOR... SLIDING OPEN!

AND THAT'S NO PEACE PIPE START-ING TO POKE THRU!

OKAY, CAESAR.. I CAN TAKE A HINT!

I KNOW WHEN I'M NOT WANTED!

BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU WERE HAVING A PARTY!

I'D HAVE WORN MY BEADS!

GOOD OL' SPIDER SPEED! WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?

KRAK!

WE GOT HERE AS SOON AS WE COULD, BIG C!

YOU TAKE COVER, CICERO! WE GOT ENOUGH MUSCLE TO NAIL 'IM!

TALK IS CHEAP, MY FRIEND!

DO IT!

HE MUSTA COME TO FREE THAT CONNORS DAME AND HER KID!

BUT HOW'D HE FIND OUT THAT WE'RE HOLDIN' 'EM AS HOSTAGES?

CONNORS! HE MUST MEAN THE WIFE AND SON OF CURT CONNORS!

ZAP!

KRAK!

SUDDENLY, IT'S ALL BEGINNING TO ADD UP!

THE MAGGIA HAS THE TABLET... BUT DOESN'T KNOW WHAT ITS SECRET IS...

AND THAT'S WHERE DOC CONNORS COMES IN!

HERE, GUYS... YOU CAN USE SOME BOOK LEARNING!

I OUGHT TO THROTTLE THAT PANICKY FOOL FOR BABBLING ABOUT OUR CAPTIVES!

THERE WAS NO REASON FOR SPIDER-MAN TO SUSPECT THEIR PRESENCE ... BUT NOW HE KNOWS!

THAT MEANS THERE MUST BE A SPEED-UP OF THE PLAN!

THE WEB-SPINNER MUST NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE!

BUT, WHILE THE *OTHERS* KEEP HIM BUSY, I MUST TAKE NO *CHANCES!*

THE *WOMAN* AND HER *SON* CAN REMAIN HERE NO LONGER!

I WILL NOT *BOTHER* TO CLEAR IT WITH THE DODDERING *SILVERMANE!*

IT WILL BE *INTEREST-ING*...TO SEE HIS *RE-ACTION!*

HOW *ABOUT* THAT?!!

WHILE I WAS BUSY LULLING HIS GORILLAS TO *SLEEP*--

BIG C DECIDED TO TAKE A *POWDER!*

THE *BOOKCASE*... IT'S COVERING THE *PASSAGE* AGAIN!

I'D BETTER JUST...*UH OH!* SOME-THING'S *WRONG!* I CAN *FEEL* IT!

FRAK!

HEY! HOW *UNFRIENDLY* CAN YOU *GET*?!!

DON'T BOTHER *ANSWERING*...

IT WAS JUST A *RHETORICAL* QUESTION!

THWIPP!

BIG C MUST BE COUNTING ON THESE MAGGIA MUSCLE-MEN TO DELAY ME WHILE HE SKIPS OUT WITH HIS CAPTIVES!

WHICH MEANS I'VE GOTTA HAUL ANCHOR AND REALLY START MOVING!

FPOOF

THE BOOKCASE... THAT WAS THE WAY HE GOT OUT!

AND, WHAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR CAESAR..!

SKRUTCH

A STEEL DOOR... SLIDING DOWN...TO BLOCK THE PASSAGE-WAY!

HAVE TO REACH IT... BEFORE IT CLANGS SHUT!

THERE'S JUST... TOO MUCH AT STAKE...

...FOR ANYTHING...

...TO STOP ME...

NOW!!

AHEAD OF ME... IN THE CORRIDOR... VOICES!

THEY SOUND LIKE A WOMAN ...AND A YOUNG TEEN-AGER!

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! I'D KNOW MRS. CONNORS' VOICE ANYWHERE!

BUT WHY DIDN'T BIG C GET THEM OUT OF HERE YET?

BOOM!

IT WORKED!

THE WALL-CRAWLER NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE!

I KNEW THOSE LITTLE TAPE RECORDINGS OF YOUR VOICES WOULD CATCH HIS INTEREST...

LONG ENOUGH TO LET HIM LINGER JUST OUTSIDE MY BOOBY-TRAPPED DOOR!

THIS IS WHY IT IS I... AND NOT THE AGING SILVERMANE...WHO SHALL LEAD THE MAGGIA!

MOM! IF SPIDER-MAN WAS...STANDING NEAR THAT BLAST..!

DON'T SAY IT, BILLY! DON'T... EVEN THINK IT!

IT'S ALL LIKE SOME FEAR-FUL, ENDLESS NIGHTMARE!

BUT, AS THE SMOKE SLOWLY **CLEARS**, BEHIND THE RAPIDLY DEPARTING SEDAN ---

IT'S LUCKY I WAS **SUSPICIOUS** ENOUGH TO STAND **BACK**...

--AND USE MY **WEBBING** TO YANK OPEN THE **DOOR** FROM A SAFE **DISTANCE!**

BUT, WHILE I'M BUSY **CONGRATULATING** MYSELF...

...**BIG C** MANAGED TO MAKE HIS **GETAWAY!**

AND THAT MEANS DOC CONNORS' **WIFE AND SON** ARE STILL IN **DANGER!**

BUT SOONER OR LATER I'LL TRACK CICERO **DOWN**...

AND WHEN I **DO**..!!

MEANWHILE, AT THE SUMPTUOUS **HEAD-QUARTERS** OF THE MAN CALLED **SILVERMANE**...

THIS TIME, CAESAR CICERO, YOU HAVE GONE **TOO FAR!**

BY BRINGING OUR **CAPTIVES** DIRECTLY TO **ME**, YOU WILL INEVITABLY LEAD **SPIDER-MAN** TO THIS VERY SPOT!

YOU GROW TOO **FEAR-FUL** IN YOUR OLD AGE, MY FRIEND!

AT ANY RATE, I HAD NO OTHER **CHOICE!**

DON'T **WORRY**, SILVERMANE...

THAT WEB-SWINGIN' **WEAKLING** WON'T GIT PAST **ME**... NO MATTER **WHAT!**

I AM *OLD*, CICERO... AND THE *STRENGTH* HAS LONG SINCE *FADED* FROM MY ONCE-POWERFUL BODY...

BUT, *THIS* I DO TELL YOU... I SHALL YET LIVE TO MAKE YOU REALIZE... YOU HAVE PUSHED ME *TOO FAR!*

WHY PICK ON *BIG C*, BOSS?

TOO MUCH *TALK* MAKES ME WEARY!

HE GOT THAT CONNORS DAME AND HER KID AWAY FROM THE *WALL-CRAWLER*, DIDN'T HE?

I DID MORE THAN *THAT!*

SPIDER-MAN WILL *NEVER* BOTHER US AGAIN!

I MUST SEE TO A MATTER OF FAR GREATER *URGENCY..!*

CONNORS! I *WARN* YOU... YOUR TIME IS RUNNING *OUT!*

I MUST HAVE WHAT I *SEEK*... AND I MUST HAVE IT *SOON!*

WITH EACH PASSING MINUTE MY *HEART* GROWS WEAKER!

IF I SHOULD *DIE* BEFORE YOU HAVE FINISHED... YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO *GLOAT!*

IN THAT EVENT... I HAVE ORDERED THAT *YOU* ARE NOT TO LEAVE HERE *ALIVE!*

QUIET... ALL OF YOU!

I FINALLY HAVE THE *ANSWER!* IT'S JUST WHAT I *GUESSED!*

HE *MEANS* IT, CONNORS! OUR LIVES AREN'T WORTH A *NICKEL* IF YOU DON'T SOLVE THE *SECRET* OF THAT BLASTED *TABLET!*

YOU WERE ON THE RIGHT *TRACK*, SILVER-MANE!

THE REASON IT'S BEEN A *MYSTERY* SO LONG IS THAT *LANGUAGE EXPERTS* TRIED TO SOLVE THE TABLET'S MESSAGE... INSTEAD OF A *BIOLOGIST!*

THE HIEROGLYPHICS STAND FOR *BIO-CHEMICAL SYMBOLS*... NOT FOR *WORDS!*

BUT YOUR TASK IS ONLY *HALF* DONE!

YOU STILL MUST CREATE A *SERUM!*

AT *MY* AGE... IN *MY* CONDITION... EVERY MINUTE... EVERY *SECOND*... IS OF VITAL *IMPORTANCE!*

I MUST HAVE THE SERUM *NOW*... DO YOU HEAR?? *NOW!!*

THE *STRAIN*... IS BEGINNING TO *TELL* AGAIN! HOW MUCH *LONGER*... CAN I HOLD BACK THE *CHANGE?*

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD BEATEN IT, CONNORS!

WHAT IS THE TABLET'S SECRET? WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO HIM?

NO MORE TALK! YOU WILL WORK NOW... WORK! WORK!

DO NOT FORGET... YOUR WIFE... AND YOUR SON!

EVEN NOW... THEY SIT WONDERING ABOUT THEIR FATE... THE FATE THAT IS IN YOUR HANDS ALONE!

DON'T CRY, MOM! DAD'LL GET US OUT OF THIS... SOMEHOW! I KNOW HE WILL!

BUT THEY'RE SO RUTHLESS... SO MERCILESS!

AND... THE MORE THEY THREATEN YOUR FATHER... THE MORE DANGER THERE IS... OF SOMETHING HAPPENING TO HIM...

...SOMETHING THAT NO ONE... NOT EVEN YOU... COULD EVER SUSPECT!

YOU'VE TRIED TO KEEP IT FROM ME, MOM... 'CAUSE I WAS SO YOUNG...

BUT, I KNOW ABOUT DAD... I GUESS I'VE KNOWN IT FOR YEARS!

YOU KNOW, BILLY? YOU KNOW WHAT??

HOW COULD I LIVE WITH HIM ALL THESE YEARS... AND NOT REALIZE...?

MY DAD IS... THE LIZARD!

BUT DON'T WORRY, MOM ...THE SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME!

IF ONLY SPIDER-MAN HADN'T BEEN KILLED IN THAT BLAST...

HE'D HAVE FOUND SOME WAY... TO HELP US!

HELP US? HOW CAN ANYTHING HELP US NOW?

MILES AWAY, A WEARY COSTUMED FIGURE IS ASKING HIMSELF THAT VERY SAME QUESTION...

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS... AND STILL NOTHING!

WHEREVER CICERO MAY BE HOLED UP... IT'S HIDDEN TOO WELL FOR MY SPIDEY SENSE TO SPOT IT!

BUT HOW DO I HELP THE DOC... AND HIS FAMILY... IF I CAN'T FIND THEM?

IT'S ALMOST *DAWN* NOW! HAVE TO GET *SOME* SLEEP BEFORE *CLASS!*

MUSTN'T FORGET TO CALL *AUNT MAY* IN FLORIDA AND SEE HOW SHE IS!

MY *SPIDER-MAN'S WEB-INS* HAVE KEPT ME TOO BUSY FOR *ANY-THING!*

Call Aunt May

HAVEN'T EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO PHONE *GWENDY* AND TRY TO SQUARE THINGS WITH *HER!*

THIS BUSINESS OF BEING A *LONER* IS FOR THE *BIRDS!*

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOMEONE I COULD *TALK* TO... SOMEONE I COULD *CONFIDE* IN!

I WISH *HARRY* WAS BACK FROM HIS DATE...

BUT... I'M TOO *SLEEPY* ...TO WAIT *UP* FOR HIM...

THE NEXT MORNING...

IF I DON'T SHOW UP FOR *SOME* CLASSES THEY'LL FORGET WHO I *AM!*

BUT, HOW CAN I *DO* IT... WHEN I SHOULD BE OUT FINDING *DOC CONNORS?*

HEY! WHAT'S BUGGIN' *PARKER?*

IS HE SUDDENLY TOO *GOOD* FOR US?

PARKER'S *OKAY,* MAN!

HE DON'T HAVETA DO THE *RAH RAH* BIT TO PROVE HE'S GOT SOUL!

THERE WAS A TIME ...WHEN THE *DOC* WAS THE ONLY FRIEND I *HAD!*

AND *NOW*... WHEN HE NEEDS SPIDER-MAN THE *MOST*...

HI, ROOM-MATE! I WAS *HOPING* I'D SEE YOU!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE NEW OSBORN *IMAGE,* PETE?

OH... *HI,* HARRY...

CAN'T FIGHT IT! I *HAVE* TO START *SEARCHING* AGAIN!

HI, HARRY? IS THAT ALL YOU SAY TO A PAL WHO'S SPORTING HIS NEW FU MANCHU FACE FUZZ?

I'VE BEEN IN HIDING FOR WEEKS, JUST TO... HEY!

SORRY, HARR! CAN'T TALK ANY-MORE!

THERE'S SOMETHING... IMPORTANT... THAT I'VE GOTTA DO!

GWEN! DID YOU SEE THAT? DID YOU HEAR HIM?

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK FLASH THOMPSON'S BEEN RIGHT ABOUT THAT JOKER ALL THE TIME!

THEN THINK AGAIN, MR. OSBORN!

THE MAN IS UPTIGHT! HE NEEDS HELP... NOT HOSTILITY!

IF YOU'RE HIS FRIEND... THEN ACT LIKE ONE!

AND, SPEAKING OF FRIENDSHIP...

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES... I'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING TILL I FIND CURT CONNORS!

I OWE HIM THAT MUCH!

...AND I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I LET HIM DOWN!

BUT, THE CITY'S SO BIG... AND TIME IS SO SHORT!

I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!

FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE!

I'LL KEEP GOING TILL I'VE COVERED EVERY STREET... EVERY ALLEY ...EVERY ROOFTOP...!

COME ON, SPIDEY SENSE ...WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

START YOUR TINGLING, BLAST IT!

I'M NOT QUITTING TILL YOU DO!

MEANWHILE, IN A NOT-TOO-DISTANT BUILDING---

YOU'VE GOT IT! YOU GOT THE SERUM ...AT LAST!

QUICKLY... I MUST HAVE IT... I MUST DRINK IT! IT MEANS EVERY-THING IN THE WORLD TO ME...!

WAIT! IT HASN'T BEEN TESTED YET! WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE!

YOU FOOL!! AT MY AGE---WHAT HAVE I TO LOSE!

GIVE IT TO ME!

FOR YEARS I HAVE STUDIED THE LEGEND OF THE ANCIENT TABLET!

THE OLDER I GROW... THE MORE CERTAIN I BECOME ---THAT IT MUST BE MINE!

TODAY, NONE WOULD BELIEVE! BUT, YEARS AGO---IN THE OLD COUNTRY---THEY KNEW WHAT THIS SERUM CAN DO!--- JUST AS I KNOW--- NOW!

BUT---IT'S STILL ONLY GUESS-WORK! IT COULD BE DANGER-OUS!

DANGER? YOU SPEAK TO SILVERMANE ---OF DANGER?!!

YEARS AGO---WHEN IN MY PRIME--- I COULD HAVE HUMBLED CAESAR CICERO---AND A DOZEN LIKE HIM--- WITH ONE BLOW!

AND SOON---I SHALL BE ABLE TO DO SO---AGAIN!

NO! DON'T DRINK IT! IT'S A TRICK! WHAT IF HE POISONED YA---?!!

SILENCE, MARKO! THERE ARE NONE WHO CAN OUTSMART SILVERMANE!

NONE!

ARGHHHH!

MARKO! MARK... UHHHH---

THUMP!

YOU KILLED 'IM!

YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD SAVE YA, DIDN'T YA?

WELL, NOW YA'LL SEE HOW MUCH GOOD IT'S GONNA DO YA..!

HANDS OFF, MARKO!

YOU DON'T KNOW... WHAT YOU'RE TAMPERING WITH...!

MARKO!

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR YOUR STRONGARM TACTICS!

NO! IT--IT CAN'T BE!

YOU'RE... STILL ALIVE!

BUT... YOU'RE NOT THE SAME! YOU'RE YOUNGER... STRONGER!!

OF COURSE I AM! THAT WAS THE PURPOSE... THAT WAS THE PLAN!

I GAMBLED EVERY-THING ON BEING RIGHT ABOUT THE TABLET'S SECRET... THE ONLY SECRET THAT COULD SAVE ME...

...THE SECRET OF... THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!

NEXT

SPIDEY SLAMS INTO ACTION AS DEATH STRIKES AGAIN!

SPIDER-MAN

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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DEATH WITHOUT WARNING!

ROMITA

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

"DEATH WITHOUT WARNING!"

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I'VE GOT TO FIND DOC CONNORS!

I KNOW THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE IN THE DEADLIEST DANGER!

--DANGER WHICH IS SOMEHOW TIED UP WITH THE MAGGIA CRIME LORDS!

AND, AT THE ROOT OF IT ALL IS THE MYSTERIOUS ANCIENT TABLET!

BUT, I'LL FIND HIM YET--AND SOLVE THE MYSTERY--

IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

MY BEST BET IS TO COVER THE *HIGH CRIME AREAS* OF THE CITY--

HOTEL CHARING

HOTEL

IF I CAN JUST *ONCE* GET A GLIMPSE OF *MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO*--OR ANY *OTHER* KNOWN HOOD--

ALL I NEED DO IS FIND *ONE* OF THEM!

AND THEN GET HIM TO *LEAD* ME TO THE *MAGGIA HEADQUARTERS!*

A COUPLE OF SMALL-TIMERS, MAKING *BOOK!*

MAYBE *THEY* HAVE THE *INFO* THAT I NEED!

HOLD IT, BLACKIE!

THERE'S SOME-THING OUT THE *WINDOW!*

YA SOUND LIKE A *NUT!* WE'RE *20 STORIES HIGH!*

I TELL YOU I SAW *SOME-THING!* BUT--

YEAH! YEAH! WHAT *ELSE* IS NEW?

HOW'S *THIS* FOR STARTERS, GUYS?

SPIDER-MAN!

LOOK OUT! WE-- WE'LL *FALL!*

TALK FAST, GROUP-- BEFORE MY ARMS GET TIRED!

I'M LOOKING FOR THE MAGGIA HQ-- AND I KNOW YOU WANT TO HELP ME!

WE'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING-- ANYTHING!

JUST GET US BACK INSIDE!

BUT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW "ANYTHING"!

--JUST ONE ITTY BITTY ADDRESS!

IT'S-- RIGHT ACROSS TOWN-- THE GALBY BUILD-ING!

THANKS, KIDDIES!

WHO SAYS NEW YORKERS ARE TOO SELFISH TO HELP A LONESOME STRANGER?

NOW FOR DOC CONNORS --IF ONLY I'M NOT TOO LATE!

I'VE GOT TO LEARN WHY THE MAGGIA CAPTURED HIM--

AND HOW THE STOLEN TABLET FIGURES IN TO ALL--> UH OH!

MY SPIDEY SENSE IS STARTING TO TINGLE!

THAT MEANS IT'S TIME FOR THE OL' WEB-SLINGER TO GO INTO ACTION!

AND, SPEAKING OF *ACTION*--LET'S JUMP THE GUN A BIT AND REACH SPIDEY'S GOAL *BEFORE* HIM--

I *TOLD* YOU I DIDN'T KILL *SILVERMANE!*

LET *GO* OF ME, MARKO-- WHILE YOU STILL *CAN!*

SILVERMANE--NO! IT--IT CAN'T BE *YOU!* IT *CAN'T!*

YOU'RE--AN *OLD* MAN-- WITH ONE FOOT--IN THE *GRAVE!*

USE YOUR *HEAD,* YOU OVERSIZED *SIMPLETON!*

THIS WAS THE PRICELESS *SECRET* OF THE ANCIENT *TABLET--!*

THE SECRET COUNTLESS MEN HAD *LIVED--* AND *DIED* FOR--

THE SECRET OF-- *ETERNAL YOUTH!*

WHAT'RE YA *HANDIN'* ME, MISTER?

NOBODY CAN GIT 40 YEARS *YOUNGER--* JUST ON ACCOUNTA SOME NUTTY *FORMULA!*

YER IN CAHOOTS WITH *CONNORS,* THAT'S WHAT!

STAY WHERE YOU *ARE,* YOU BLUNDERING *OAF!*

STUDY MY *FACE* --IS IT NOT THE *SAME--* ONLY *YOUNGER?*

NOW TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO *SILVERMANE* --OR I'LL TAKE YA *APART!*

IS MY *VOICE* NOT THE VOICE THAT HAS EVER *COMMANDED* YOU?

I AM *STILL* SILVERMANE! I AM STILL YOUR *LEADER!*

BUT *NOW*--I POSSESS BOTH THE *YOUTH*-- AND THE *STRENGTH* --TO BE THE *GREATEST* MAGGIA CHIEFTAIN OF *ALL!*

BUT, WHILE WE STAND HERE ARGUING-- WHAT OF DR. CONNORS?

HE ALONE KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE TABLET'S FORMULA!

HE MUST NOT ESCAPE US!

HOW CAN A ONE-ARMED PUNK LIKE HIM GIT OUTTA THIS JOINT?

HE AINT GOT A CHANCE!

ANYWAY, --WE'RE HOLDIN' HIS WIFE AND KID HOSTAGE!

AND, EVEN AS MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO SPEAKS... IN AN ADJOINING ROOM--

I WARN YOU, MR. CICERO-- IF ANY HARM COMES TO MY HUSBAND--

EASY, MOM --WE CAN'T THREATEN THEM!

SHUDDUP, BOTH OF YOU!

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT CAUSED ALL THAT NOISE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL!

SILVERMANE IS OLD--IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HIM--

THE COMMAND MUST PASS TO ME!

ALLOW NO ONE TO ENTER OR LEAVE THAT ROOM--

YA CAN COUNT ON ME, BIG C!

OR YOU YOU WILL ANSWER TO CAESAR CICERO!

EVERY DAY THAT PASSES BRINGS THE AGING SILVERMANE CLOSER TO DEATH!

ALL I NEED DO IS PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT--AND WAIT HIM OUT--

THEN, ONE DAY, CAESAR SHALL LEAD-- AS I WAS BORN TO DO!

COME IN, CAESAR-- COME IN! I HAVE BEEN EAGERLY AWAITING YOU!

NO! IT CANNOT BE! IT IS-- MADNESS!

JUST AS YOU HAVE BEEN SO PATIENTLY AWAITING MY CERTAIN DEMISE!

HE GOT YOUNGER, BIG C-- ON ACCOUNTA THE TABLET!

AND NOW, TREACHEROUS ONE--WE HAVE MANY SCORES TO SETTLE!

MARKO! IT'S A TRICK! HE'S NOT SILVERMANE-- HE CAN'T BE!

YEAH--SURE! THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, BIG C! HE CAN'T FOOL US!

HE MUST BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE POLICE! THEY'RE TRYING TO TRAP US-- TO MAKE US TIP OUR HAND!

IT WON'T WORK, CAESAR!

YOU CANNOT TURN US AGAINST EACH OTHER --TO SERVE YOUR OWN AMBITIOUS ENDS!

SILENCE HIM, MARKO-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED-- OR HOW--

BUT IF I CAN GET THEM BOTH TO CRUSH EACH OTHER-- THEN NO ONE WILL STAND IN MY WAY!

DON'T WORRY, BIG C --I'LL TAKE CARE OF 'IM!

YOU BRAINLESS, MUSCLE-BOUND BUNGLER--

NOT EVEN YOUR STRENGTH WILL HELP YOU NOW!

I AM THE SILVERMANE THAT WAS--

THE SILVERMANE WHO YEARS AGO FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE TOP OF THE MAGGIA--OVER MANY SUCH AS YOU!

DESPITE YOUR BESTIAL POWER--YOU HAVE NOT THE SPEED--NOR THE SKILL--TO HANDLE THE LIKES OF SILVERMANE!

THAT IS WHY I AM THE LEADER-- WHY I SHALL EVER BE THE LEADER!

NOW THAT THE SECRET OF THE TABLET IS MINE--

I SHALL STAY YOUNG AND STRONG-- FOREVER!

THE WAY YA *TALK*--THE WAY YA USE YER *DUKES*--JUST LIKE THE *STORIES* I USEDTA HEAR--OF HOW *NOBODY* COULD EVER BEAT *SILVERMANE!*

THE STORIES WERE *TRUE!* IT WAS *I* WHO HELPED *ORGANIZE* THE MAGGIA IN THIS CITY--

I, WHOSE *RUTHLESS-NESS* AND *MIGHT* HELPED CREATE THE GREATEST *CRIME CARTEL* OF ALL!

AND NOW THAT I HAVE *REGAINED* MY *YOUTH*--

I WILL *DESTROY* ANY WHO OPPOSE ME--AS I LEAD THE MAGGIA IN THE MOST *DARING* CRIMES OF ALL!

NOW *SPEAK*, MARKO--LET ME HEAR YOU *SWEAR* THAT YOU WILL OBEY ME *BLINDLY!*

LET ME HEAR YOU SAY THAT YOU *BELIEVE* --THAT YOU *KNOW*, BEYOND ALL QUESTION OR DOUBT--

--THAT I, AND I *ALONE*-- AM *SILVERMANE!*

YEAH! *YEAH!* YOU *ARE*-- YOU *GOTTA* BE SILVERMANE!

I CAN SEE IT *NOW*-- RIGHT THERE --IN FRONT OF MY *EYES*-- YOU *DID* GIT YOUNGER--

IT WUZ THE STUFF YOU *DRANK*--FROM THE FORMULA ON THE *TABLET*--*THAT'S* WHAT DID IT!

IN FACT--IT'S *STILL* DOIN' IT!! YOU'RE *STILL* GETTIN' YOUNGER --RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY *EYES!*

YER *HAIR*-- IT AINT *GREY* NO MORE! YOU-- YOU'RE EVEN YOUNGER-- THAN *ME!*

IT--IT'S LIKE *MAGIC!* IT AINT *POSSIBLE*-- BUT I *SEE* IT-- I *SEE* IT *HAPPENIN'*--

JUST LIKE AS IF A *CLOCK*-- IS MOVIN' *BACKWARDS* --JUST FOR *YOU!*

MARKO--LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU--!

KRASH!

I KNEW I'D FIND YOU, BIG MAN--SOONER OR LATER!

SPIDER-MAN!

STOP 'IM! IF HE MANAGES TO--

UNHHH!

HE'S ALL ALONE! HE CAN'T--

ARHHH!

RELAX, GENT'S! I'LL HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE ON IN!

NOW, THE FIRST THING I WANT IS DR. CONNORS!

IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM--OR HIS FAMILY--

SHUT HIM UP, MARKO--AND DO IT NOW!

I WAS HOPIN' YA'D ASK ME, SILVER-MANE!

SILVER-MANE? THAT CAN'T BE HIM! HE SHOULD BE EIGHTY YEARS OLD!

I WENT *EASY* ON YOU LAST TIME, MARKO--

--'CAUSE I HAD *OTHER* THINGS ON MY MIND--

AND THERE WAS A *LADY* PRESENT!

BUT JUST IN CASE YOU THINK YOU'RE *REALLY* A MATCH FOR ME--

I'D BETTER CLUE YOU IN TO THE FACTS OF LIFE --BUT *FAST!*

FTOOM!

YER *LIFTIN'* ME--WITH *ONE* HAND-- LIKE I DON'T EVEN *WEIGH* NOTHIN'!

I'VE GOTTA *HAND* IT TO YOU, PAL--

FOR A *DUMMY*, YOU CATCH ON *QUICK!*

AND *NOW*, SONNY BOY, I WANT SOME *ANSWERS!*

NO! IT CAN'T BE! BUT-- IT IS--!

I'M GETTING YOUNGER *STILL!!*

HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

BTHMM!

HE'S THE ONE MARKO CALLED *SILVERMANE!*

BUT HE LOOKS EVEN YOUNGER *NOW* THAN A FEW *MINUTES* AGO!

THE FORMULA *SUCCEEDED* BEYOND MY WILDEST *HOPES!*

I'M LIKE A MAN IN HIS EARLY *TWENTIES* --IN THE VERY *PRIME* OF LIFE!

AND, THE *YOUNGER* I GET--THE *HEALTHIER* I GET--THE MORE *ALIVE*--THE MORE *POWERFUL* I BECOME!

THERE IS *NOTHING* I CANNOT DO--*NO ONE* I CANNOT *DEFEAT!*

NOT EVEN *SPIDER-MAN* CAN HOPE TO OPPOSE ONE WHO HAS DRUNK FROM THE WATERS OF THE *FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!*

HE--REALLY *MEANS* IT!

MEANWHILE--

I DON'T KNOW WHERE *SPIDER-MAN* CAME FROM--BUT THIS IS MY CHANCE TO *ESCAPE!*

ALL RIGHT, WALL-CRAWLER --LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'RE *MADE* OF!

THEY *FORCED* ME TO MAKE THAT POTION--FROM THE FORMULA INSCRIBED UPON THE ANCIENT *TABLET!*

BUT, WHEN THE MAGGIA FINDS OUT WHAT THE *TRUE RESULT* WILL BE--MY LIFE WON'T BE WORTH A *NICKEL!*

I'VE GOT TO FIND *MARTHA*--AND *BILLY*--AND GET THEM *OUT* OF HERE!

BECAUSE, IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR *ANYTHING* --IF THE *LIZARD* SHOULD APPEAR!

IF THE CHANGE *OCCURS*--

NO! I MUSTN'T EVEN *THINK* OF IT--NOT WITH MY *WIFE* AND *SON* SO NEAR!

THE *LIZARD* HAS NO *MEMORY*--NO FEELINGS OF *LOVE*--NOT EVEN FOR *THEM!*

THE *SPASMS* --THEY'RE *START-ING!* I-I CAN'T *STOP* THEM!

MY *MISSING ARM* --BEGINNING TO *THROB*--TO *PAIN* ME!

IT'S GROWING *BACK*-- *BACK!*

I HAVE TO *TURN*--*RUN*-- GET *AWAY* FROM HERE-- AWAY FROM MY *FAMILY*--WHILE --I STILL *CAN!*

I'LL--FIND A *ROOM*--AND *LOCK* MYSELF INSIDE--AND THEN--AND THEN--

HAH! THEY COULDN'T *STOP* ME! COULDN'T KEEP ME *HUMAN* ANY LONGER! I WAS TOO *STRONG* FOR THEM!

WHAT AM I *DOING* HERE? WHY/AM I *CLOSED IN*-- BY *WALLS*--*DOORS*--?

THIS IS NO FIT PLACE FOR *ME!* I NEED *ROOM* --*SPACE*-- *FREEDOM!*

I *THOUGHT* I HEARD SOMEONE OUT HERE!

HOLD IT RIGHT *THERE,* MISTER-- TILL I SEE WHO YOU *ARE!*

ZWAK!

I AM THE *LIZARD!*

THAT'S ALL YOU'LL *EVER* NEED TO KNOW!

THIS TIME I MUST NOT WASTE MY MATCHLESS POWER!

I MUST USE IT TO THE FULLEST!

ONLY THEN CAN I REMAIN THE LIZARD--FOREVER!

MUST GET OUT!

MUST HAVE TIME TO PLAN--TO STALK--AND THEN--TO STRIKE!

I CAN'T BEAR THE WAITING ANY LONGER!

I HAVE TO KNOW--WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

NO, MOM! DAD WOULD WANT YOU TO STAY HERE!

HE'D WANT ME TO PROTECT YOU!

LISTEN! THEY'RE OUTSIDE THE DOOR!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT LOOKED LIKE A HUMAN LIZARD?

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY GAMES WITH CAESAR CICERO?

YA GOTTA BELIEVE ME, BIG C! HE WUZ DRESSED LIKE A MAN--BUT--

UNHHH!

THE DAME AND THE KID ARE STILL SAFE IN THERE, CICERO!

IT'S A TRICK OF SILVER-MANES! ADMIT IT! ADMIT IT!

GET YOUR GUNS--ALL OF YOU!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO--BUT IT'S TIME FOR THE FINAL SHOWDOWN!

AND, SPEAKING OF SHOWDOWNS--

NOT EVEN SPIDER-MAN CAN STAND UP TO THE INVINCIBLE POWER OF ETERNAL YOUTH!

THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE HERE FOR ME TO TAKE ANY CHANCES!

MY FIRST JOB IS TO FIND DOC CONNORS--AND HIS FAMILY!

THEN I'LL GET BACK TO THIS OVERSIZED PETER PAN!

NO! YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE ME! NOBODY WILL EVER ESCAPE ME AGAIN!

ALL THE GANGLAND KILLINGS I HAVE ORDERED IN THE PAST WILL BE AS NOTHING TO THE REIGN OF TERROR THAT IS YET TO COME!

A BEAKER OF CHEMICAL ACID!

IF I HADN'T AVERTED MY FACE IN TIME--!

SPLANG!

I AM SILVERMANE! I ROSE TO THE TOP OVER THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF THOSE I HAD TO CRUSH IN MY CLIMB TO POWER!

AND NOW, I AM STRONGER, WISER, YOUNGER THAN EVER!

NOW, ALL WHO LIVE SHALL LEARN HOW MERCILESS THE MAGGIA CAN BE!

THIS IS HOW I BATTLED ONCE BEFORE--WHEN I WAS IN MY PRIME!

NO ONE WAS SAFE FROM THE SAVAGERY OF SILVERMANE!

WHY DON'T YOU FALL? WHY DON'T YOU COLLAPSE IN A PAROXYSM OF FEAR?

MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE WEAKER THAN YOU THINK!

COULD BE JUST MY IMAGINATION--

BUT I COULD SWEAR HIS VOICE IS GETTING SHRILLER-- YOUNGER-- WITH EVERY WORD!

NO! NO! I'M THE DEADLY SILVERMANE!

I'M THE STRONGEST ONE OF ALL!

THERE'S NO *DOUBT* ABOUT IT! HE *IS* GETTING YOUNGER-- BY THE *SECOND!*

EACH BLOW HAS LESS *WEIGHT*-- LESS *POWER* BEHIND IT!

NOW *STAY* THERE, MISTER! I'VE STILL GOT A *JOB* TO DO!

UH OH! I'M STARTING TO *TINGLE* AGAIN! THERE'S *NEW DANGER* NEAR!

WHEN I GIVE THE *WORD*--YOU ALL RUSH *INSIDE!*

AND *SHOOT* ANYTHING THAT *MOVES!*

GET *READY*-- HERE WE *GO*--!

NOW!

IT'S *SPIDER-MAN!* BUT-- HE WUZ *EXPECTIN'* US!

HE'S HIGH-TAILIN' IT *AWAY!*

YOU SURE HAVE A WAY OF MAKING A FELLA FEEL *UNWANTED!*

KRAK!

STOP HIM! HE MUST NOT LEAVE THIS PLACE *ALIVE!*

FTING!

YOU SHOULD REALLY TRY TO *CONTROL* THOSE ANTI-SOCIAL TENDENCIES!

--'CAUSE THEY *COULD* BE HABIT-FORMING!

ZIK!

STAY *WITH* HIM--*ALL* OF YOU--UNTIL HE'S *FINISHED!*

IT IS TIME TO PUT AN *END* TO THE CAREER OF *SILVERMANE*--

AND THAT IS *ONE* TASK I SHALL PERFORM *ALONE!*

WHAT IS *THIS?* HAS SOMEONE ALREADY BEATEN ME *TO* IT?

SILVER-MANE! YOU SHALL NOT *ROB* ME OF MY VICTORY!

NO! NO!

IT CANNOT *BE!* IT IS *IMPOSSIBLE!* IT IS *MADNESS!*

I DID NOT *KNOW*-- THERE'D BE-- NO *STOPPING* IT!

WITH EVERY *HEARTBEAT* --I GROW YOUNGER-- *YOUNGER*--

BUT-- WHERE WILL IT *END?*?

MY VOICE-- THE VOICE OF--A TEENAGER!

MY BODY-- GETTING SLIMMER-- WEAKER-- SMALLER-- WITH EACH PASSING SECOND!

THIS IS NOT THE WAY I PLANNED IT!

I WANTED LIFE ETERNAL-- POWER OVER ALL WHO LIVE--

THAT ALONE WAS MY GOAL!

BUT-- NOT THIS! NOT THIS!

NOT THIS!

THAT SCREAM-- COMING FROM THE SPOT WHERE I LEFT SILVER-MANE!

A BOY-- RUSHING FROM THE ROOM-- AS THOUGH SATAN HIMSELF IS AT HIS HEELS!

BUT--THE CLOTHES HE'S WEARING --THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKING THEM!

THAT YOUTHFUL FIGURE--JUST SECONDS AGO-- WAS THE MURDEROUS SILVERMANE!

SORRY, SWEETIES! IT'S TIME TO TAKE OFF THE KID GLOVES!

I'LL HAVE TO FINISH YOUR BOXING LESSON SOME OTHER TIME!

BUT DON'T WORRY! I'LL TELL CICERO YOU FOUGHT LIKE SAVAGES!

--'CAUSE I KNOW HOW HE TAKES THESE THINGS TO HEART!

STILL NO TRACE OF CONNORS!

BUT HE HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE!

WHAT'S THAT-- IN THE ROOM BEHIND ME--?

SOUNDS LIKE-- A CHILD SOBBING--

CRRIPE AK!

THE SOBS-- ARE FADING AWAY-- INTO *NOTHINGNESS--!*

SILVERMANE *FOUND* THE YOUTH HE SOUGHT--

AND THE PRIZE WILL BE HIS-- *FOREVER!*

THAT WAS WHY THE TABLET'S SECRET HAD TO BE COUCHED IN HIEROGLYPHICS--

IT WAS A SECRET TOO DANGEROUS-- TOO DEADLY--FOR ANY MAN TO POSSESS!

UP AHEAD-- THOSE VOICES THRU THE DOOR! I'D KNOW THEM ANYWHERE!

MRS. CONNORS! BILLY! GET BACK-- STAND AWAY FROM THE DOOR--!

SPASH!

MOM--LOOK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN! HE'S ALIVE--HE FOUND US!

YOUR FATHER, BILLY-- WHERE IS HE? WHAT HAPPENED TO DR. CONNORS?

WE DON'T KNOW! FOR A MOMENT-- I DARED TO HOPE--HE WAS WITH YOU!

ANYWAY, YOU CAN BOTH COME OUT NOW!

THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH LATER FOR EXPLANATIONS!

BUT NOW, THE IMPORTANT THING IS--YOU'RE BOTH ALIVE--AND UNHARMED!

AND A PORTION OF THE MAGGIA'S POWER HAS BEEN STRIPPED AWAY-- FOR GOOD!

BUT WHY ISN'T MY HUSBAND HERE? WHAT CAN HAVE HAPPENED TO CURT?

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT COULD KEEP HIM FROM US-- EITHER HE'S BEEN INJURED-- OR--

NO! I-I CAN'T EVEN SAY IT!

WE KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MOM! BUT, IF HE DID BECOME THE LIZARD --AT LEAST SPIDER-MAN IS HERE TO HELP US!

YET, *LAST* TIME THEY FOUGHT--SPIDER-MAN WAS ALMOST *DEFEATED* BY THE SUPER-POWERED *LIZARD!* AND NOW--THE SCALY-SKINNED *STALKER* IS WISER, MORE *POWERFUL* THAN EVER--

BUT SUDDENLY--HE HAS A FLASH OF *SANITY*--AS HE REMEMBERS--

MY *WIFE*--MY *SON*--I MUST NOT *HARM* THEM!

MUST BOARD MYSELF *IN*--SO THEY'LL BE *SAFE* FROM ME!

THWOM!

BUT THEN, THE MOMENT OF *LUCIDITY* SOON PASSES--

NO! NO! NOTHING MUST KEEP ME TRAPPED! *NOTHING!*

THE LIZARD WAS BORN TO *FIGHT*--TO *ATTACK!*

THE LIZARD MUST THINK OF *NOTHING* ELSE!

DEEP BENEATH THE BESTIAL *EXTERIOR,* THE ESSENCE OF *DR. CONNORS* STRUGGLES FOR CONTROL--STRUGGLES FOR *REASON*--

BUT, WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, HIS IDENTITY *FADES*--UNTIL IT IS FELT *NO MORE!* UNTIL, AT LAST--

ONLY THE *BEAST* REMAINS!

NEXT THE LIZARD LIVES!

SPIDER-MAN

15¢ IND. | 76 SEPT

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE LIZARD LIVES!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

THE LIZARD LIVES!

NOTHING CAN STOP THE LIZARD!

I MUST BE FREE! FREE TO RUN... AND CLIMB... AND LEAP...

FREE TO VENT MY BURNING RAGE AGAINST THE HUMAN RACE...

ESPECIALLY AGAINST THE ONE I DESPISE THE MOST...

THE ONE I MUST DESTROY...

THE ONE CALLED... SPIDER-MAN!

SMILIN' STAN LEE, AUTHOR.

BIG JOHN BUSCEMA, INNOVATOR.

SLIM JIM MOONEY, ILLUSTRATOR.

HAMMY SAMMY ROSEN, LETTERER.

---ALL INVITE YOU TO A MENU OF MAGNIFICENT MAYHEM IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER!

MY REPTILIAN **STRENGTH** IS FAR, FAR **GREATER** THAN HIS!

AND MY **POWERS** FAR **DEADLIER!**

HE **ESCAPED** ME IN THE **PAST**---BECAUSE **LUCK** WAS ON HIS SIDE!

BUT NOW I'M **WISER**... MORE FILLED WITH **HATE!**

NOW **I**... THE **LIZARD**... WILL MAKE MY **OWN** KIND OF LUCK!

TWO **FACES** SEEM TO HAUNT ME...TWO **MEMORIES** THAT TRY TO HOLD ME **BACK!**

BUT THEY GROW **DIMMER**... WITH EVERY PASSING **SECOND!**

AND **NOW**...THEY HAVE **VANISHED** COMPLETELY!

NOW THE LIZARD CAN **DO** WHAT MUST BE **DONE!**

I HAVE ONLY *ONE* PURPOSE... ONLY *ONE* PLAN...

ONLY ONE *DESIRE* THAT WILL NEVER *DIE!*

I MUST CRUSH SPIDER-MAN!

HOW *WELL* I REMEMBER... THE *LAST* TIME WE FOUGHT...*

I WAS THE *POWER*...AND I WAS THE *SPUR* ...WHILE *HE* WAS THE *VICTIM!*

*FROM *SPIDEY* #45...REMEMBER? S.

"I HAD THE *STRENGTH*...THE POUNDING *POWER*...THE SAVAGE *WILL TO WIN*..."

"BUT THEN...JUST AT THE *LAST* MINUTE...JUST AS I *HAD* HIM..."

"HE TRICKED ME...!"

"HE LURED ME INTO A *REFRIGERATOR CAR*... WHERE THE ICY COLD *TEMPERATURE* MADE ME *WEAK*...AND SAPPED MY SUPERIOR *STRENGTH*... THE STRENGTH WHICH HAD ALMOST *BEATEN* HIM!"

--AND HE'LL NEVER TRICK ME *AGAIN!*

THE *NEXT* TIME WE MEET... I'LL BE READY FOR *ANYTHING!*

...FOR ONLY HIS *DEATH* WILL MAKE THE BATTLE *END!*

WELL, ON *THAT* CHEERY NOTE WE'LL HAVE TO *CHANGE* OUR SCENE, AS WE QUICKLY *ZERO-IN* ON THE LIZARD'S *VICTIM-TO-BE*...

A LOUSY *TWENTY CENTS?*

I COULD'A GOT THAT FROM *ANYBODY!*

SORRY, SPORT! IT'LL HAVE TO *DO,* TILL US SUPER-HEROES GET *UNIONIZED!*

ANYWAY, YOU'LL HAVE A *GROOVE* ---TELLIN' EVERY-ONE HOW *CHEAP* SPIDEY IS!

DON'T *WORRY,* MOM! WE'LL BE *OKAY* NOW!

IT'S NOT *US* I'M WORRIED ABOUT, BILLY...

IT'S... YOUR *FATHER!*

YOU AND THE BOY SHOULD BE *SAFE* HERE NOW, MRS. CONNORS!

THERE ISN'T A *CHANCE* OF THE *LIZARD* KNOWING WHERE YOU ARE... OR BEING ABLE TO *FIND* YOU NOW!

TO THINK... WE HAVE TO *HIDE* THIS WAY... FROM BILLY'S OWN *FATHER!*

IT'S NOT DAD'S *FAULT,* MOM! HE CAN'T *HELP* BEING THE *LIZARD!*

AFTER THE *CHANGE*... HE JUST DOESN'T *KNOW*... WHAT HE'S *DOING!*

BUT, WE *LOVE* HIM! WE JUST *CAN'T* DESERT HIM!

PERHAPS ...WE SHOULD HAVE *RETURNED* ...TO FLORIDA!

I *PROMISE* YOU, MRS. CONNORS...

I'LL DO EVERYTHING I *CAN* FOR HIM!

BUT... EVEN IF YOU *FIND* HIM... HE'LL NO LONGER *KNOW* YOU'RE HIS *FRIEND!*

HE'LL ONLY REMEMBER YOUR LAST *BATTLE!* HE'LL BE CRAVING *REVENGE!*

THAT CHEERY LITTLE THOUGHT *DID* OCCUR TO ME!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE *DEBT* THAT I OWE HIM!

SO I'LL MAKE YOU THIS *PROMISE...*

NO MATTER *WHAT* HAPPENS ...NO *HARM* WILL COME TO HIM!

OH...IF ONLY I COULD *BELIEVE* THAT!

SO LONG AS HE *LIVES* ...HE'LL *NEVER* GIVE UP!

BUT...HE'S ALL WE *HAVE!* IF...ANY-THING SHOULD *HAPPEN* TO HIM--!

I OUGHTTA CHANGE MY NAME TO *STAN LAUREL!*

THIS IS *ANOTHER* FINE MESS I GOT MYSELF INTO!

THE LIZARD'S AS *POWERFUL*...AS *DEADLY*...AS ANY-ONE I'VE EVER FOUGHT!

AND I'VE GOTTA *TAKE* HIM...WITH-OUT LETTING HIM GET *HURT!*

BUT I *OWE* IT TO DOC CONNORS... AND HIS FAMILY... TO *KEEP* MY WORD ...NO MATTER *WHAT!*

THAT'S LIKE MAKING AN *OMELETTE* ...WITHOUT BREAKING AN *EGG!*

WELL, I'D BETTER GET *HOME* AND TIE UP SOME LOOSE ENDS...

BEFORE STARTING THE *TOUGHEST FIGHT* OF MY LIFE!

THUS, MINUTES LATER---

CAN'T TAKE THE *LIZARD* TILL I SEE *GWENDY* AGAIN!

JUST IN CASE...IT MAY BE THE *LAST* TIME!

AWW, CUT IT *OUT*, PARKER!

TRY TO LOOK ON THE *BRIGHT* SIDE!

---IF YOU CAN *FIND* IT!

BUT FIRST, I'LL PUT THRU A CALL TO *AUNT MAY!*

HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO SEE HOW SHE'S *FEELING* LATELY!

AND EVEN IN *FLORIDA*, A PERSON CAN GET *LONELY!*

PETER DEAR! ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?* WHY HAVEN'T YOU *CALLED?*

I *KNOW* YOU'VE BEEN BUSY... BUT I *DO* WORRY SO!

ESPECIALLY WHILE YOU'RE *ALONE*...WITH NO ONE TO LOOK *AFTER* YOU!

BE SURE TO GET ENOUGH *SLEEP*, DEAR... AND TAKE YOUR *VITAMIN PILLS!*

YOU KNOW HOW *EASILY* YOU CATCH *COLD!*

LOOK, YOU JUST SOAK UP THAT *SUN* AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A *THING!*

I'VE GOT *LOTS* OF PEOPLE TO LOOK *AFTER* ME!

YEAH... LIKE THE *LIZARD!*

IN FACT, HERE COMES *ONE* OF THEM NOW!

IT'S MY GLOOMY ROOMIE... *HARRY OSBORN!*

GOTTA HANG *UP* NOW, GIRL FRIEND!

THE PHONE COMPANY'S RICH *ENOUGH!*

HI, HARR! STILL SPORTING YOUR NEW *FU MANCHU*, HUH?

YOU *KNOW* IT, SON!

IT MAY NOT TURN *YOU* ON... BUT IT DRIVES *MARY JANE* MAAAD!

WELL, *'SCUSE* ME, OL' BUDDY... GOTTA *RUN!*

YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME A *COMPLEX*...

I'LL START THINKING I'VE GOT *BAD BREATH!*

ALWAYS RUNNING *OUT* WHEN HE WANTS TO SHOOT THE BREEZE!

HARRY'S *RIGHT!* I'VE SURE BEEN A *CRUMMY* FRIEND TO HIM...

IF ONLY THINGS WOULD *QUIET* DOWN...SO I COULD PICK UP THE STRANDS OF MY *NORMAL* LIFE!

OR, IS THAT TOO MUCH FOR ME TO *HOPE* FOR?

RACKED BY **DOUBTS**... PLAGUED BY A THOUSAND **ANXIETIES**... THE TROUBLED YOUTH FINALLY REACHES THE **STACY** HOME, TO FACE THE GIRL HE LOVES...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S **CHANGED** YOU THESE PAST WEEKS, PETER...

UNLESS... YOU'VE SIMPLY FOUND SOMEBODY **NEW**... AND CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO **TELL** ME!

GWEN! YOU **KNOW** THAT ISN'T SO!

DO I, MR. PARKER? JUST **HOW** DO I KNOW?

YOUR MANY UNEXPLAINED **ABSENCES** HAVE GIVEN ME TIME TO **THINK**... TO REALIZE HOW **BLIND** I'VE BEEN!

YOU'RE **WRONG**, GWEN... I **SWEAR** IT!

ALL THE SUDDEN **DISAPPEARANCES**... THE BROKEN **DATES**... AND I NEVER ONCE **SUSPECTED** ...THAT THERE MIGHT BE **ANOTHER** GIRL!

THERE'LL **NEVER** BE ANYONE ELSE FOR ME ...BUT **YOU!**

THEN, WHAT **IS** YOUR SECRET, PETER?

WHAT **IS** THE THING YOU WON'T **SPEAK** OF... THAT KEEPS US **APART?**

I **WANT** TO TELL YOU, GWEN... I WANT TO MORE THAN ANYTHING **ELSE** IN THIS WHOLE, CRAZY WORLD!

BUT THIS ISN'T THE **TIME**... OR THE **PLACE!**

THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST **DO**, HONEY... SOMETHING **IMPORTANT!**

IF IT WORKS OUT... THINGS WILL BE **DIFFERENT**... AND... AND MAYBE **THEN**...!

I'LL BE **WAITING**, PETER... EVEN IF IT TAKES... A **LIFETIME!**

MEANWHILE, IN THE VERY NEXT ROOM...

I **AGREE** WITH YOU, ROBBIE...

SPIDER-MAN IS NO MORE A **MENACE** TO SOCIETY THAN **WE** ARE!

BUT **WHY** DOES HE KEEP HIS **IDENTITY** A SECRET?

IF THE PUBLIC *KNEW* WHO HE IS---IF HE'D COME OUT INTO THE *OPEN*---

THEY'D BE LESS *SUSPICIOUS!* THEY MIGHT EVEN START TO *TRUST* HIM!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHAT *MOTIVATES* HIM---!

OR PERHAPS ---WHAT HE'S GOT TO *HIDE?*

WELL, *ONE* OF THESE DAYS WE'LL---

OH! YOU'VE GOT *COMPANY!*

PARKER! GOOD TO *SEE* YOU, SON!

WE'VE *WONDERED* WHERE YOU'D *BEEN!*

SAY! YOU MIGHT BE JUST THE ONE WE NEED TO *HELP* US!

HELP YOU, CAPTAIN STACY?

YOU'VE PROBABLY TAKEN MORE NEWS PHOTOS OF *SPIDER-MAN* THAN ANYONE *ELSE!*

YES, I---I GUESS I *HAVE!*

SURELY THERE MUST HAVE BEEN *SOMETHING* YOU NOTICED ABOUT THE MAN!

SOME PECULIARITY IN HIS *WALK* PERHAPS---IN HIS *SPEECH*---OR IN SOME *MANNERISM?*

WHY, *NO* SIR! I--- I CAN'T *THINK* OF ANY!

DAD! PETER CAME TO SEE *ME!* AT LEAST---I *HOPE* SO!

I GUESS GWEN IS *RIGHT,* ROBBIE!

WE SHOULDN'T *INTRUDE* ON THE YOUNGSTERS' *DATE!*

BUT, THE *NEXT* TIME YOU'VE A FREE MINUTE, PETE--- DROP BY AND *SEE* ME!

I'VE BECOME *FASCINATED* BY THE MYSTERY OF SPIDER-MAN'S *IDENTITY!*

YES, I *WILL,* SIR---FIRST CHANCE I *GET!*

I'M KINDA FASCINATED BY THE SUB-JECT, *TOO!*

BUT NOW, SINCE EVEN A *WALL-CRAWLER* AND HIS GIRL DESERVE SOME *PRIVACY*, WE'LL LEAP AHEAD TO THE NEXT *MORNING*, WHERE WE FIND---

THAT *NEWS BULLETIN!* IT'S WHAT I WAS *WAITING* FOR!

OKAY, LIZARD...THIS IS *IT!*

SCALY-SKINNED *MADMAN* THROWS CITY'S *EAST SIDE* INTO EARLY MORNING *PANIC*...

POLICE CAUTION RESIDENTS TO STAY *INDOORS!*

KNOWING THE LIZARD, HE'S PROBABLY GONE ON A *RAMPAGE* JUST TO BRING ME *TO* HIM!

AND HE WON'T HAVE LONG TO *WAIT!*

HE...HE TOSSED MY WHOLE *CAR*---OUTTA HIS WAY...LIKE IT WAS A *TOY!*

HE AIN'T EVEN *HUMAN!*

HE'S...LIKE A TWO-LEGGED *LIZARD!*

ONE THING ABOUT OL' LIZ---

WHEN HE GOES INTO *ACTION*... HE'S NOT HARD TO *FIND!*

HE LEAVES A *TRAIL* THAT *NO ONE* COULD MISS!

HEY, AVERAGE CITIZENS--- HOW LONG AGO DID THE *LIZARD* PASS BY?

JUST *ANSWER* THE QUESTION, KIDDIES---I WON'T *BITE!*

FIRST, THE *LIZARD*...

AND *NOW* ---*SPIDER-MAN!*

IT LOOKS LIKE THE *WEIRDOS* ARE TAKIN' *OVER!*

WELL, *THEY* WERE A GREAT HELP!

I SURE AM *POPULAR* IN THIS TOWN!

IF I RAN FOR *MAYOR* ---EVEN *MAO T'SE TUNG* WOULD BEAT ME!

BUT, SPIDEY'S LITTLE REVERIE IS SUDDENLY *CUT SHORT*, AS---

ZZZK!

SOMETHING SLICED MY WEBBING!

HOW *EASY* IT WAS! JUST *ONE* SIMPLE SLASH!

NOW *FALL*, SPIDER-MAN---FALL TO YOUR *DEATH*---

AT THE HANDS OF THE *LIZARD!*

HE'S AS *FEARSOME* AS I REMEMBER HIM!

IT'S HARD TO *BELIEVE* HE'S ACTUALLY *DR. CONNORS!*

SO! YOU SAVED YOURSELF WITH YOUR *WEBBING*, DID YOU?

WE'LL SEE HOW MUCH *GOOD* IT DOES YOU!

I'LL SAVE YOU THE *TROUBLE* OF CLIMBING *UP* TO MEET ME...!

NOW WHAT'S HE UP TO?

BRAKK!

WHEW! SHOULD HAVE *REMEMBERED* THE POWER OF HIS *TAIL!*

AND TO *THINK*... I HADDA PROMISE NOT TO *HURT* HIM!

I'LL BE LUCKY TO COME *OUT* OF THIS IN *ONE* PIECE!

OKAY, LIZ---NOW LET'S PLAY IT *MY* WAY!

HE'S AS *FAST* AS I AM... AND EASILY AS *STRONG*...

BUT, IF I CAN GET THE ADVANTAGE OF *SURPRISE*..!!

NOW!

THANKS, BUDDY! I *HOPED* YOU'D LEAP LIKE THAT!

SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF *LIFTING* YOU!

THAT OUGHTTA *QUIET* HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO *THINK* OF SOMETHING!

HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED *YET* THAT MY SKIN IS LIKE *ARMOR*?

IT'S AS *BAD* AS I FEARED!

I GAVE IT ALL I *HAD*...AND HE'S NOT EVEN *BRUISED!*

THOOM!

NOW YOU WILL SEE WHY NO ONE CAN STAND UP TO THE LIZARD!

MUST YOU DEMONSTRATE EVERYTHING YOU SAY?

A SIMPLE WORD PICTURE WOULD DO ME JUST FINE!

WORDS AREN'T ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE HATRED FOR YOU THAT NEVER GIVES ME PEACE!

IF IT'S PEACE YOU WANT, JUST SAY SO

I'M THE ONLY WEB-SPINNING DOVE IN CAPTIVITY!

WHY DO I BOTHER TALKING TO HIM?

I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER HE'S NOT A NORMAL ENEMY... WHO MIGHT BE SWAYED BY THREATS... OR LOGIC... OR EVEN FEAR!

WHILE HE'S THE LIZARD, HE LIVES FOR ONE THING ONLY...

TO DESTROY HIS ENEMY, SPIDER-MAN... AND THEN TO ATTACK EVERY HUMAN HE SEES!

UNHHH!

AHHH! HURLING ME OVER YOUR HEAD PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS...

OR SHOULD I SAY... MY TAIL?

AND NOW, AT *LAST*... THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR!

THE MOMENT WHEN I *HAVE* YOU... LIMP AND *HELPLESS*... COMPLETELY AT MY *MERCY!*

BTAM!

EXCEPT... AS YOU CAN SEE...

THE LIZARD *HAS* NO MERCY!

THE WAY HE'S *SWINGING* ME AROUND...HE WANTS TO *DASH* ME...TO THE *PAVEMENT!*

SPIDER-MAN, *FAREWELL!* YOU WERE JUST A FEEBLE *INTER-RUPTION!*

NOW, WITH *YOU* GONE, I CAN CONTINUE MY *TRUE* LIFE'S WORK...

I CAN CLAIM EARTH'S SURFACE FOR THE *REPTILE WORLD!*

AND SO... I **WIN!** SPIDER-MAN IS **DESTROYED**... AT LAST!

HAVE TO **TURN** IN MID-AIR...AND LASH **OUT**...AT THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE!

EVERTHING **DEPENDS** ON **ONE** QUICK MOVEMENT...!

VVZANNG!

HE'S **SPINNING** AROUND... SNAPPING HIS **WEB**...

HE **CAUGHT** ME... BEFORE I COULD **MOVE!**

HE'S **CLUTCHING** AT MY WEB...WITH FINGERS LIKE **STEEL FILES!**

IF HE **SNAPS** THE STRANDS...BEFORE I **REACH** HIM...!

ARGHH!

I'M TOO LATE! HE DID IT!

HE'S GOT IT IN HIS HANDS... WHIRLING ME AROUND!

ALL BECAUSE... I TRIED NOT TO HARM HIM!

I KEPT THE PROMISE I MADE... BUT...

UPPFFFF!

THIS TIME, SPIDER-MAN, THERE'LL BE NO SECOND CHANCE!

THAT'S IT! COME TOWARDS ME!

CLOSER! A LITTLE CLOSER..!

THROK!

HAVE TO FIGHT... FOR TIME...

--TO CATCH MY BREATH ...GET MY STRENGTH BACK!

HAVEN'T GOT... SCALY SKIN... LIKE THE LIZARD!

HITTING THE SMOKESTACK THE WAY I DID... ALMOST FINISHED ME!

IF THAT WAS THE BEST YOU COULD DO TO STOP ME...

THEN THE BATTLE IS AS GOOD AS OVER NOW!

AND, JUST TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE NOT PLAYING POSSUM...

KRAK!

STILL ALIVE, ARE YOU?

YOU'RE STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE!

...NOT THAT IT WILL DO YOU ANY GOOD!

BUT, THERE'S *LITTLE* SATISFACTION IN FINISHING OFF A *BARELY-CONSCIOUS* SPIDER-MAN!

I'LL *WAIT* UNTIL YOU'RE ON YOUR *FEET* AGAIN!

MEANTIME, I'LL FIND SOME NEARBY PLACE TO *PLUNDER*...

AS ONLY THE *LIZARD* CAN!

NO! WHAT *CHANCE*... WOULD ANYONE *HAVE*...AGAINST YOU?

LESS CHANCE THAN *YOU!*

...AND *YOU* HAVE *NONE!*

I WAS A *FOOL*... TO WORRY ABOUT *HURTING* HIM... BEFORE!

I HAD FORGOTTEN... HOW *STRONG*...HIS ARMOR-PLATED *SKIN* MAKES HIM!

NOW... I HAVE TO PERFORM... THE GREATEST *ACT*...OF MY LIFE...

I HAVE TO MAKE HIM THINK...HE'S *BEATEN* ME! AND THEN I'LL...

UNHHH!

ZZHA!

A FINAL SWAT OF MY *TAIL* IS ALL I'LL NEED!

AND SO ENDS THE CAREER OF THE BEATEN SPIDER-MAN!

THAT'S IT... DROP ME!

I'VE GOT IT ALL PLANNED!

LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S THE LIZARD!

HE'S GOT SPIDER-MAN!

HE...HE'S ABOUT TO DROP HIM!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, AN UNPREDICTABLE FATE TAKES A HAND...IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FLAMING, FLYING, FANTASTIC HUMAN TORCH...

IF I SEE WHAT I THINK I SEE DOWN THERE...

THERE'S A FRIENDLY, NEIGHBOR-HOOD SPIDER-MAN IN SOME REAL BIG TROUBLE!

IT *WORKED!* HE *DROPPED* ME!

NOW, I'LL *SPIN AROUND* AGAIN AND WEB ONTO A NEARBY *WINDOW!*

THEN, I'LL SWING *IN*, AND WAIT FOR *HIM* TO COME TO *ME!*

AND BY THE TIME HE *REACHES* ME, I'LL BE *READY* FOR--- *WHA--??!*

I'M JUST IN *TIME!*

I'LL DOUSE THE FLAME IN MY *ARMS*, SO AS NOT TO *BURN* YOU!

LET *GO* OF ME, MATCHHEAD! YOU'LL SPOIL *EVERYTHING!*

SINCE WHEN IS SAVING SOMEONE'S *LIFE*--- EVEN *YOURS*--- A CASE OF *SPOILING* EVERYTHING?

UH OH! ANSWER ME *LATER!* I'VE GOT *WORK* TO DO!

THE TORCH BROUGHT ME TO THE *ONE* PLACE I WANTED TO GET *AWAY* FROM---

THE ROOFTOP WHERE THE *LIZARD* IS!

UNLIKE *ME*--- THAT FLAMING *KIBITZER* WILL USE ALL HIS POWER TO *DESTROY* HIM---

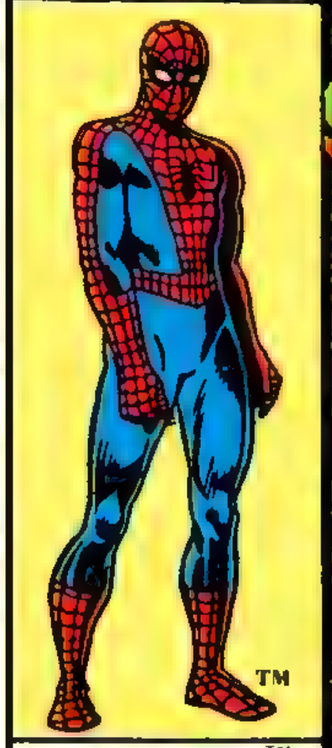
AND I'M STILL TOO *WEAK* TO STOP THE *TORCH*--- OR *SAVE* THE LIZARD!

NEXT **FRIEND OR FOE?**

SPIDER-MAN

15¢

77 OCT



MARVEL COMICS GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IN THE BLAZE OF BATTLE!

ROMITA

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

IN THE BLAZE OF BATTLE!

AS WE SAW LAST ISH, JUST AS *SPIDEY* WAS ABOUT TO TRAP THE DEADLY *LIZARD*, HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE *HUMAN TORCH*, WHO UNWITTINGLY RUINED OUR HERO'S *PLAN!* AND NOW, LET'S GIRD FOR *ACTION*..!

MAYBE YOU CAN STOP OL' *WEBHEAD*, MISTER...

BUT YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR *JOHNNY STORM!*

DON'T *DO* IT, TORCH! *WAIT!* YOU DON'T *UNDER-STAND*..!

PRODUCED BY... **STAN LEE**, AUTHOR... **JOHN BUSCEMA**, INNOVATOR **JIM MOONEY**, ADAPTOR... **SAM ROSEN**, LETTERER

AND... **JOHN ROMITA**, CONSULTANT EMERITUS IN RESIDENCE.

LISTEN TO ME, HOT STUFF! IT'S A PRIVATE FIGHT BETWEEN THE LIZARD AND ME!

I CAN TAKE HIM! YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME DO IT ALONE!

I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP ... BUT YOU'LL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE!

A PRIVATE FIGHT? WITH THE CITY PRACTICALLY UNDER MARTIAL LAW BECAUSE OF THAT CRAWLIN' CREEP?

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDIN', FELLA!

BUT ANY-WAY... START TALKING! I MIGHT AS WELL HEAR YOU OUT!

FOOLS! WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHETHER I FIGHT YOU SEPARATELY... OR TOGETHER?

NO SINGLE POWER... NO COMBINATION OF FOES.. CAN HOPE TO MATCH THE LIZARD'S STRENGTH!

SPAK!

TORCH... LOOK OUT!

I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU, SON!

I'LL MELT THAT GRANITE INTO SOUP BEFORE IT CAN GET NEAR ME!

AW, COME ON, LIZ!

YOU DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY FROM ME *THAT* EASY, DO YOU?

I *TOLD* YOU THIS WAS A *PRIVATE FIGHT*, TORCH!

AND I *MEANT* WHAT I SAID!

ASBESTOS WEBBING?!!

HEY! WHOSE *SIDE* ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?

IT'S NOT A *MATTER* OF TAKING SIDES!

BUT I HAVE TO DO IT *MY* WAY!

I WANT HIM STOPPED AS MUCH AS *YOU* DO!

WHAT'S THE *BIT*, MASKED MAN? NOBODY'S KEEPING *SCORE!*

I CAN'T *TELL* HIM THAT I PROMISED DR. CONNOR'S *WIFE* THAT NO HARM WOULD COME TO HIM!

IT MIGHT MAKE HIM *SUSPECT* THE LIZARD'S TRUE *IDENTITY!*

--TO SAY NOTHING OF MY *OWN!*

THEY NEVER THOUGHT I'D *DOUBLE BACK* SO SOON!

LOOK, TORCH... YOU'VE JUST GOT TO *TRUST* ME!

I--I CAN'T *EXPLAIN* RIGHT NOW!

TRUST YOU? I'D TRUST YOU ABOUT AS FAR AS I COULD THROW...

HEY! LOOK OUT!

UNHHH! EVEN *I* FELT THAT...CLEAN OVER *HERE!*

YOU DON'T THINK THIS ASBESTOS *WEBBING* IS GONNA STOP ME FROM TURNING ON THE *HEAT* AGAIN, DO YOU?

NOW SAY *UNCLE,* GRUE-SOME...

TORCH! I'M TELLING YOU FOR THE *LAST* TIME... CUT *OUT* OF HERE!

ALL YOU'RE GONNA *DO* IS MAKE THINGS *WORSE!*

'CAUSE IF I MAKE IT ANY *HOTTER,* EVEN THAT SCALY *HIDE* OF YOURS WON'T SAVE YOU!

AND I'M TELLING *YOU,* MISTER...I'VE NEVER RUN FROM A FIGHT *BEFORE...*

AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO START *NOW!*

AND, IF YOU THINK THIS CRUMMY WEBBING OF YOURS CAN HOLD ME FOREVER...

FORGET IT!

THERE'S NO ASBESTOS MADE THAT CAN WITHSTAND MY SUB-NOVA HEAT!

ZZZ

ZASSK!

STAY THERE, LIZ!

I'M COMING TO GET YOU!

YOU'LL NEVER GET THE LIZARD!

FALL!!

VURRAK!

HAH! THAT'S IT... RUN FOR COVER!

YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO HURL CHUNKS OF CEMENT WITH ONE SWING OF MY TAIL!

BUT, THE THIN LEDGE UPON WHICH HE STANDS SUDDENLY CRUMBLES FROM THE FORCE OF HIS BLOW...

...HURLING THE LIZARD DOWN-WARD...TO THE PAVEMENT FAR BELOW!

CAN'T LET HIM DIE! CAN'T LET DOC CONNORS COME TO SUCH AN END!

NOW...IF ONLY THE TORCH WON'T INTERFERE!

THWIPPP!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A MIDTOWN HOTEL ROOM...

...WE *INTERRUPT* THIS BROADCAST TO ANNOUNCE THAT *SPIDER-MAN* AND THE *LIZARD* HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BATTLING AMONG THE ROOFTOPS NORTH OF THE *GRAMERCY PARK* AREA

IT'S JUST BEEN REPORTED THAT THE *HUMAN TORCH* HAS ALSO JOINED THE ATTACK UPON THE LIZARD...!

OH *NO!* NOW SPIDER-MAN WON'T BE *ABLE* TO SAVE YOUR FATHER... EVEN IF HE *TRIES!*

GOSH, MOM... WHY WOULD THE *TORCH* WANT TO HURT DAD?

DON'T YOU *SEE,* DEAR... HE DOESN'T *KNOW!*

NOBODY... EXCEPT SPIDER-MAN AND *OURSELVES*... KNOWS THAT THE LIZARD IS REALLY *DR. CURT CONNORS!*

THEN... THE TORCH MAY TRY TO *KILL* HIM!

HE MAY TRY TO KILL... MY OWN *FATHER!*

HE'S *LEAVING*... RUNNING AWAY TO HIDE HIS *TEARS!*

IT'S JUST AS *WELL!* THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN *DO*... NOTHING *ANYONE* CAN DO...

--EXCEPT PRAY THAT *SPIDER-MAN* WON'T FAIL US!

I CAN'T STAY UP THERE... IN THE ROOM WITH MOM... WHILE DAD MAY *NEED* ME!

MAYBE... IF I *FIND* HIM... THERE'LL BE SOMETHING I CAN *DO!*

I DON'T CARE IF HE *IS* THE LIZARD ...I DON'T CARE ABOUT *ANYTHING* ...EXCEPT... HE'S MY *FATHER!* HE'S MY *FATHER!*

BUT, EVEN AS THE ANGUISHED YOUTH DESPERATELY RACES THRU THE STREETS...

HOW ABOUT THAT?

AFTER THE WEB-SLINGER BREAKS HIS FALL...

...THE LIZARD KEEPS BELTING HIM--- WHILE HE CAN'T FIGHT BACK!

...BUT YOU TOP 'EM ALL, SNAKE EYES!

I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF COLD-HEARTED KILLERS...

BTOK!

MAYBE SPIDER-MAN'S TOO CHICKEN TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR...

...BUT ME, I'M GONNA---

UNNHH!!

FOOL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE LIZARD'S GREAT AGILITY?

HE BROKE HIS FALL...CATCHING ONTO THAT *LEDGE* AGAIN!

BUT WHAT DO I DO *NOW?*

IF HE ISN'T *STOPPED* ...EITHER THE *TORCH* OR *I*...OR *SOMEONE* WILL BE KILLED!

AND YET... WITH HIS UNCANNY *SUPER-STRENGTH*...HOW DO I *STOP* HIM... WITHOUT *HARM-ING* DR. CONNORS?

THINK, SPIDEY... *THINK*... BEFORE YOUR TIME RUNS *OUT!*

THE TORCH IS *AFTER* ME AGAIN!

BUT I CAN *BEAT* HIM TO THE *WATERFRONT!*

ONCE I REACH THE *RIVER*...THE BATTLE WILL BE *MINE!*

WATER IS A LIZARD'S NATURAL *ELEMENT!*

SPAK

SECONDS LATER...

I *MADE* IT! *NOBODY* WILL EVER STOP THE LIZARD *NOW!*

SATISFIED, WEB-WIT? THANKS TO YOUR INTERFERENCE, THE LIZARD REACHED THE WATER-FRONT!

IT WAS YOUR FAULT, TORCH!

I TOLD YOU TO BUTT OUT OF THIS!

I USED TO THINK YOU WERE KINDA OFF-BEAT... BUT MAN, YOU'RE GONE!

AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA BE--LIKE NOW!

HE'S HEADING FOR THE LIZARD AGAIN!

NOTHING I CAN SAY WILL STOP HIM!

MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A A THING ABOUT HANDLING BADDIES WITH KID GLOVES...

--BUT NOT THE HUMAN TORCH!

KNOW SOMETHING, HOT-HEAD? YOU SURE TAKE A LOT OF CONVINCING!

SPTHUPP!

NOT AGAIN!!

ENJOY IT WHILE YOU *CAN*, YOU CREEP!

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THIS'LL *HOLD* ME?

LONG *ENOUGH* FOR ME TO REACH THE LIZARD *FIRST!*

SOMETHING THE LIZARD *SAID* BEFORE... ABOUT *WATER* BEING HIS NATURAL ELEMENT ...GAVE ME AN *IDEA!*

EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON ME GETTING HIM *ALONE*...

AND THAT MEANS KEEPING THE *TORCH* OUT OF MY HAIR...*SOMEHOW!*

...AND THEN FINDING WHAT I *NEED* IN ONE OF THE *WAREHOUSES* BELOW!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING ON THAT *SHIP* DOWN THERE!

IT'S THE *LIZARD* AGAIN!

BUT THERE GOES THE *TORCH*... HEADING STRAIGHT *FOR* HIM!

HE *MEANT* WHAT HE SAID ABOUT MY WEBBING NOT *HOLDING* HIM!

FACE IT, SPIDEY! YOU'RE *REALLY* IN THE SOUP NOW!

WOW! LOOKS LIKE I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!

SO THAT'S THE GUY THAT SPIDER-MAN WANTS TO GO EASY ON, HUH?

DROP THAT MAST, LIZARD! FUN-TIME'S OVER FOR TODAY!

KRRAK!

HEY! I DIDN'T MEAN DROP IT ON ME!

CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE CHANCES WITH HIM! HE'S DEADLIER THAN I THOUGHT!

--- AND FASTER, TOO!

NEVER SAW ANYONE DODGE MY FIREBALL ATTACK WITH SUCH AN EFFORTLESS LEAP!

UH OH! I CAN GUESS WHAT HE'S UP TO...

HE'S HEADING FOR THE WATER!

BUT I CAN STILL *GET* 'IM!

--IF I STRIKE BEFORE HE DIVES TOO *DEEP!*

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS *BOIL* THE SURFACE OF THE WATER---

---USING MODIFIED SHORT-BURST *THERMAL BLASTS!*

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT---

I HOPE I'M NOT *TOO LATE!*

HE MAY BE PLAYING *POSSUM*... BUT I HAVE TO *CHANCE* IT!

LUCKILY, THE TORCH *HELD OFF* HIS HEAT BLASTS WHEN HE SAW ME HIT THE WATER!

NOW TO FIND THE... *UNNNHH!*

HE *WAS* PLAYING POSSUM! THE HEAT DIDN'T *AFFECT* HIM!

HERE... IN THE *WATER*... THE ADVANTAGE.. IS *HIS!*

BUT... I STILL HAVE MY *BRAIN!* I CAN STILL... *OUT-THINK* HIM!

THE *COLLAR* HE WEARS... IF I CAN JUST *GRAB* IT...

THERE! NOW... BY PUTTING ENOUGH *LEVERAGE*... INTO MY GRIP... AND *TWISTING*...

... I CAN CUT OFF ENOUGH OF HIS AIR SUPPLY TO *WEAKEN* HIM... TO HAUL HIM TO THE *SURFACE!*

BUT... WHEN I *GET* THERE ... WHAT ABOUT THE *TORCH?*

THERE HE *IS*... JUST AS I *KNEW* HE'D BE!

BUT I MUST GET *RID* OF HIM... I *MUST*!

NOW, WEB-HEAD, YOU AND *I* HAVE A LITTLE SCORE TO SETTLE!

I'VE *ONE* ACE-IN-THE-HOLE! HE DOESN'T *KNOW* THE EXTENT OF MY *POWERS*!

LOOK, JUNIOR... I'LL FIGHT YOU *ANYWHERE*... AND *ANY TIME* YOU WANT TO! BUT FIRST, I WANNA *TELL* YOU SOMETHING..!

DON'T TRY TO STALL YOUR WAY *OUT* OF IT, CHARLIE!

IT'S *NO* STALL, BIG MOUTH! WHILE UNDER THE WATER, MY *SPIDER-SONIC HEARING* PICKED UP A *DISTRESS CALL* ...FROM THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*!

MY *PARTNERS*... IN *TROUBLE*?

I'LL GET BACK TO *YOU* SOME *OTHER* TIME!

DON'T *HURRY*, BIG MOUTH!

IT *WORKED*! FOR ALL *HE* KNOWS, I *DO* HAVE UNDER-WATER SPIDER-SONIC HEARING... WHATEVER THE HECK *THAT* MAY BE!

BUT *NOW*... I'VE GOT TO GET THE *LIZARD*... AND *FAST*!

EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON FINDING WHAT I *NEED* IN A NEARBY WARE-HOUSE!

...AND HOPING I CAN *DO* IT BEFORE HE COMES *TO* AGAIN!

BUT THEN, AS AN UNDREDICTABLE *FATE* WOULD HAVE IT...

IT'S *SPIDER-MAN!!* AND... HE HAS MY *DAD!*

BUT... WHAT *HAPPENED?* WHY IS HE... SO *STILL?*

NO TIME TO FIDDLE WITH *DOOR LOCKS* NOW!

EVEN IF THIS THREE-INCH THICK *STEEL* GIVES ME A SKINNED KNUCKLE-- IT'LL BE *WORTH* IT!

SPAWNG!

NOW! A PLACE LIKE THIS JUST *HAS* TO HAVE WHAT I'M *LOOKING* FOR!

THE ONLY *PROBLEM* IS... WHERE DO I *FIND* IT?

SECONDS LATER...

OVER *THERE!* THOSE DRUMS OF *CHEMICALS!* THAT'S *IT!*

THOUGHT I HEARD *FOOT-STEPS*... BACK ALONG THE CORRIDOR!

BUT THEY DIDN'T SOUND LIKE THE *LIZARD*...

SO I'LL WORRY ABOUT THEM *LATER!*

HOWEVER, OUR WEARY *WEB-SPINNER* MIGHT BE MORE INCLINED TO WORRY *NOW*... IF HE KNEW WHO THE FOOTSTEPS *BELONGED* TO...

I'VE GOT TO *FIND* THEM!

...GOT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO MY *DAD!*

MAYBE THEY BOTH NEED SOME *HELP!*

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING *I* CAN DO!

I..I THOUGHT I *HEARD* SOMETHING ...UP *ABOVE* ME!

SO! HE THOUGHT HIS PUNY *WEBBING* COULD HOLD THE *LIZARD!*

HE'LL PAY WITH HIS *LIFE* FOR THAT MISTAKE!

DAD!

YOU...MUST BE... A FRIEND OF *HIS!!*

SPIDER-MAN!! HELP!

THAT SOUNDED LIKE...BOBBY CONNORS!

IF HE'S HERE... AND THE LIZARD HAS BROKEN FREE..!!

IT IS BOBBY! HE'S FAINTED! BUT-- THE LIZARD...

THE WAY HE'S LOOKING AT HIM...AS THOUGH, IN SOME DIM RECESS OF HIS TORTURED BRAIN... HE REMEMBERS... WHAT HE WAS!

SPIDER-MAN! NOW I HAVE YOU! NOW YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME!

I'VE SURVIVED YOUR ATTACK... SMASHED THRU YOUR WEBBING--

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS ...IS TO CRUSH YOU!

NOT IF THIS DEHYDRATING POWDER WILL DO ITS JOB, YOU WON'T!

SK-RUNCH!

POWDER? HOW CAN ANY POWDER STOP THE LIZARD?

YOU GAVE ME THE CLUE YOURSELF... WHEN YOU SAID THAT WATER IS A LIZARD'S NATURAL ELEMENT!

$CaCl_2$

SO... ANYTHING THAT CAN DEHYDRATE YOU... DRY THE MOISTURE FROM YOUR PORES ... HAS TO WEAKEN YOU!

NO! NO! NOOO!

IN FACT, WITH LUCK IT'LL DO MORE THAN WEAKEN YOU...

IT MAY TRIGGER OFF A CHEMICAL REACTION...

...CAUSING A NEW TRANSFORMATION...

...UNTIL YOU'RE DR. CONNORS ONCE AGAIN!

BOBBY! BOBBY! MY SON! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT! DID... DID THE LIZARD HURT YOU?

I'M OKAY, DAD! THE LIZARD WOULDN'T EVER HURT ME! I COULDN'T BE AFRAID ... OF HIM!

SINCE WE'RE KNOWN FOR ESCHEWING MAUDLIN SENTIMENTALITY, LET'S SKIP THE MUSHY PART, AND GET RIGHT TO THE WRAP-UP... A COUPLE HOURS LATER...

SPIDER-MAN.. HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU?

WE SEEM TO BE ALWAYS ASKING YOU THAT QUESTION!

CAREFUL! ONE DAY I'LL COME UP WITH AN ANSWER!

BUT, TILL THEN... JUST KEEP THY WEBS UNTANGLED!

MAN! IF THERE'S ONE THING I LIKE, IT'S A HAPPY ENDING!

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE I'M THE SAME OLD HARD-LUCK WEB-SPINNER!

THE ONLY THING I'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT IS...

MEETING THE TORCH... AFTER HE REALIZES HE'S BEEN HAD!

BUT, AFTER SOME OF THE PROBLEMS I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH...

A HASSLE WITH THAT HUMAN MATCHSTICK COULD SEEM LIKE SWINGING VACATION!

AND, SPEAKING OF PROBLEMS... PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL THAT SPIDEY DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT HE WILL NEXT CONFRONT...

THE PROWLER!

Marvel Super-Heroes #14, May 1968

"The Reprehensible Riddle of…the Sorcerer!"

The Amazing Spider-Man artist John Romita's responsibilities as Marvel's Art Director would often pull him away from drawing Spidey's adventures. Always searching for artists who could step in if Romita was overbooked, Stan Lee tapped Ross Andru for a Spider-Man tryout. Andru's effort saw print in the formerly reprint title *Marvel Super-Heroes*. Years later, in 1973, the torch was passed and Andru began a tenure on *The Amazing Spider-Man* that would run, almost unbroken, to late 1978.

So sit back, and enjoy a rare look at Andru's first take on ol' Webhead.

Writer: Stan Lee

Penciler: Ross Andru

Inker: Bill Everett

Letterer: Sam Rosen

Color & Art Reconstruction: Wil Glass & All Thumbs Creative

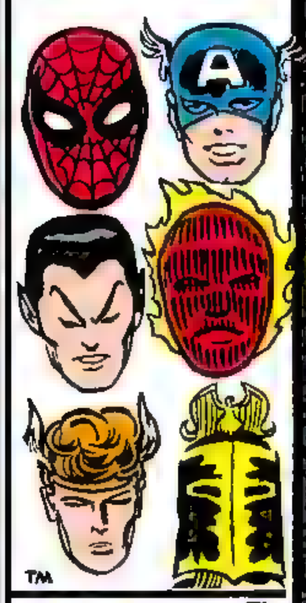
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
IN THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MCG

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES

TM



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An ALL-NEW FEATURE-LENGTH SPIDEY THRILLER!

A NEW ARTIST! AN OFF-BEAT PLOT! A DIFFERENT LOCALE! PLUS: MANY OTHER SURPRISES!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!™

"The REPREHENSIBLE RIDDLE of... The SORCERER!"

ALSO FEATURING:
THE SPINE-CHILLING SYNTHETIC MAN!

WHEN **JAZZY JOHNNY** SPRAINED HIS WRIST, OUR OLD PAL **ROSS ANDRU** CAME TO THE RESCUE WITH THIS REPLACEMENT **SPIDEY** YARN! BUT THEN, JOHNNY MADE HIS DEADLINE AFTER ALL! SINCE WE CAN'T BEAR TO LEAVE THIS MIXED-UP LITTLE MASTERPIECE SLUMBERING ON THE SHELF, HERE IT **IS**, PILGRIM--A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME **TREAT** FOR YOU--!

CUNNINGLY CONCOCTED BY:
SMILIN' STAN LEE and RIOTOUS ROSS ANDRU

EMBELLISHED BY:
WILD BILL EVERETT
LETTERED BY:
SWINGIN' SAM ROSEN
WITCHCRAFT BY:
FORBUSH FETISHES, Inc.

MANY ARE THE UNSOLVED MYSTERIES WHICH ABOUND IN THE GREATEST CITY ON EARTH! THE TUMULTUOUS TALE YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ IS THE STARTLING ACCOUNT OF JUST SUCH A MYSTERY---

FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE ANY *OTHER* MIDDLE-CLASS HOME ON A MIDDLE-CLASS STREET, IN THE MIDDLE-CLASS SECTION OF TOWN---

BUT, BEHIND THE GRIM, GREY, SILENT WALLS, WE FIND...

AT LAST! AFTER ALL THESE TORTUROUS MONTHS OF PREPARATION...

I AM *READY!*

...READY TO EXECUTE THE *STRANGEST CRIME* EVER ATTEMPTED!

READY TO *DESTROY* THE VICTIM WHOM I DO NOT EVEN *KNOW*--!

FOR, ONLY BY COMPLETELY *VANQUISHING* THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN OF ALL...

WILL I BE CERTAIN THAT MY *POWER* IS TOTALLY AND ETERNALLY *SUPREME!*

THEREFORE... *SPIDER-MAN MUST DIE!*

NO MATTER *WHERE* HE MAY BE... MY POWER SHALL *REACH* HIM!

FOR, THE EFFECTIVE RANGE OF *THOUGHT* IS WITHOUT ANY LIMIT...

JUST AS THE POWER OF *SORCERY* IS EVER *BOUNDLESS!*

WHEREVER HE IS... WHATEVER HE MAY BE DOING...A STRANGE *MALADY* WILL NOW AFFLICT HIM...!

THERE ARE THE HOODS I'VE BEEN *SEARCHING* FOR!

BUT...WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH ME?

WHY DO I SUDDENLY FEEL *WEAK*...DIZZY..?

WELL... CAN'T *WORRY* ABOUT IT NOW!

GOT TO *TACKLE* THEM... BEFORE THEY CAN *ESCAPE!*

OHHH! MY *HEAD!* FEELS LIKE IT'S GONNA *SPLIT!*

MY *COORDINATION'S* OFF! CAN'T CONTROL MY *SWING..!*

GONNA SLAM INTO THE *WALL!* CAN'T *STOP!!*

=UNHHH!=

THE PAIN IN MY *HEAD*... IT'S ACHING WORSE THAN *EVER!!*

NEVER FELT... ANYTHING LIKE THIS.. BEFORE! WHAT... CAN IT *BE*...?

I--I'M FALLING... RIGHT THRU THE *SKY LIGHT!*

ASK!

HAVE TO HOLD ON!!

MUSTN'T BLACK OUT... NO MATTER WHAT!

HEY, YOU GUYS... LOOK!

IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

MAYBE HE AIN'T ALL HE'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

HE ALMOST BROKE HIS BLASTED NECK WHEN HE FELL IN HERE!

YEAH! BUT HE DON'T HAVE 'TA WORRY...!

WE'LL FINISH THE JOB FOR 'IM!

IF ONLY... MY HEAD WOULD... CLEAR..!

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO DO A REAL GOOD DEED!

WE'RE GONNA MAKE THIS TOWN SAFE AGAIN...FOR ALL US HARD-WORKIN' HEIST MEN AND BURGLARS!

YEAH! WE'LL PROBABLY GIT US A MEDAL NEXT TIME THE MAGGIA MEETS!

QUIT THE CLOWNIN' AND LET 'IM HAVE IT, YOU BIRD-BRAINS!

THAT MASKED CREEP AIN'T NO PUSH-OVER!

I COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE, SMART GUY!

ONLY MY WEBBING... CAN HELP ME NOW!

THOK!

THWOP!

LOOK OUT! HE'S SHOOTIN' HIS WEBBIN' AT---ULP!

BLAST IT! HE SNARED MY ROD CLEAN OUTTA MY HAND!

MINE TOO!

WE SHOULDN'T'A WAITED SO LONG!

BUT WE'LL STILL FINISH 'IM--!

I CAN'T FIGGER OUT WHAT IT *IS*...

BUT THERE'S SOMETHIN' *WRONG* WITH 'IM!

YEAH! LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA *CAVE IN* ANY MINUTE NOW!

SO I FIGGER THE *THREE* OF US OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO POLISH 'IM OFF... *ALLEY STYLE!*

LET'S GO!

S'MATTER, WALL-CRAWLER? YA TOO *TIRED* TO GIT UP'N TANGLE WITH US?

I'VE *GOT* TO.. FIGHT BACK... SOME-*HOW!!*

WITHOUT THEIR *GUNS*...I COULD HANDLE...A *DOZEN* LIKE THEM--!

IF ONLY...THE *PAIN* IN MY HEAD...WOULD *STOP!!*

ZOK!

HEY! I THOUGHT YOU WAS... ULLPP!

I STILL HAVE TO... *PULL* MY PUNCH!

DON'T WANNA... *MURDER* THE MAN!

I DON'T CARE IF SOMETHIN'S WRONG WITH 'IM OR *NOT!*

I AIN'T TACKLIN' *THAT* CAT NO MORE!

YOU'N ME *BOTH*, PAL!

THEN *C'MON*... LET'S CUT *OUTTA* HERE!

HOW COME... HE AIN'T... CHASIN' US-??

I DUNNO! BUT DON'T KNOCK IT!

JUST KEEP RUNNIN'!

FOR ONCE... MY LUCK HELD OUT!

IF THEY'D FOUGHT BACK.. A LITTLE LONGER... THEY'D HAVE HAD ME! I...CAN HARDLY.. STAND UP!

EVEN GOIN' STRAIGHT HAS TO BE BETTER...THAN THIS!

IF THAT'S HOW HE FIGHTS...WHEN SOMETHIN'S BUGGIN' 'IM..

I NEVER WANNA BE THERE WHEN HE'S BRIGHT-EYED 'N BUSHY-TAILED!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT.. UP AHEAD?

WELL, WELL! CAUGHT IN THE ACT, HUH? WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU JOKERS!

IT WUZN'T US WHO CRASHED THRU THAT BLASTED LIGHT!

DID YOU THINK NO ONE WOULD HEAR IT WHEN YOU BROKE THRU THAT SKYLIGHT?

'COURSE NOT! IT WAS THE WIZARD OF OZ!

OR MAYBE IT WAS BIG, BAD SPIDER-MAN!

C'MON! THE PADDY WAGON'S WAITING, OUTSIDE! MOVE IT!

AND, AS THE LESS-THAN-EXUBERANT TRIO ARE USHERED OUT OF THE ALLEY, OUT OF THE SCENE, AND QUITE POSSIBLY OUT OF OUR LIVES... WE RETURN TO THE STOICALLY SUFFERING SUPERHERO OF OUR SOMEWHAT STIRRING SAGA ...

THE PAIN... IS EVEN MORE INTENSE THAN EVER!

BUT, I'VE NEVER KNOWN SUCH A SENSATION!

IT'S AS THOUGH... IT'S COMING FROM.. OUTSIDE MY BODY!

AS THOUGH... IT ISN'T REALLY A PART OF ME!

I'VE GOT TO GET HOME... FAST...

WHILE I STILL CAN!

WHILE, MANY MILES AWAY... A STRANGELY SINISTER MAN REMAINS SEATED... GLOATING IN DEMONIACAL SATISFACTION ...

THE MENTAL EMANATIONS WHICH I SENT FORTH HAVE BORNE FRUIT!

THUS, THE GAME HAS BEGUN! BUT, IT IS ONLY THE PRELUDE!

THE MOST DIFFICULT PART... THE MOST DEADLY PART... STILL LIES AHEAD!!

NOW, WITHOUT LEAVING MY CHAIR... I SHALL SEND SPIDER-MAN... TO HIS DOOM!

AND THE MOST INSIDIOUSLY BEAUTI-FUL ASPECT OF MY ENTIRE PLAN IS...

HE WILL NEVER EVEN KNOW WHO IT IS WHO HAS DESTROYED HIM...

...NOR WILL HE EVER SUSPECT HOW IT WAS DONE!

I ALMOST WISH I COULD *TELL* HIM! I ALMOST WISH I COULD REVEL IN HIS *SHOCK* IF HE EVER LEARNED THE TRUTH!

I STILL REMEMBER THE *BEGINNING*...THOSE LONG YEARS AGO...

AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERTS ON *PSYCHIC RESEARCH*, I SPENT EVERY WAKING HOUR CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS IN *ESP*...

IT'S *NO GOOD!* YOU DO *NOT* POSSESS THE POWER!

BUT...HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT *ANYONE* ACTUALLY POSSESSES *EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION?*

IT'S VERY *SIMPLE*, MY DEAR!

I *MYSELF* HAVE THE POWER!

YES, I KNEW THAT I POSSESSED THE ABILITY TO PROJECT MY *MIND*...TO EXERT MY *WILL* OVER THE OTHERS! BUT, I WAS WEAK ...UNTRAINED...I NEEDED *DISCIPLINE*...I NEEDED A *GURU*..

THERE ARE *OTHERS*... SUCH AS THE ALMOST LEGENDARY *ANCIENT ONE*...AND HIS DISCIPLE, *DR. STRANGE!*

BUT, IT WOULD TAKE ME FAR TOO LONG TO *FIND* THEM!

ONCE I HAVE LEARNED ALL I CAN FROM *BOOKS*, I'LL USE *ANOTHER* METHOD!

SORCERY and WITCHCRAFT

PSYCHIC SCIENCE

DEMONOLOGY

AND SO, I FINALLY REACHED THE *MECCA* OF ALL WHO STUDY THE MYSTIC ARTS...

IT IS *HERE* THAT I SHALL FIND WHAT I *SEEK!*

IT WASN'T EASY! THE DAYS STRETCHED TO WEEKS...TO MONTHS...TO *YEARS*...BUT I PERSERVERED! FOR, THERE WAS A *WORLD* TO BE WON!

REMEMBER... YOU AND THE BOWL ARE *ONE!*

GOOD! *GOOD!* SEE HOW YOU ARE *LIFTING* IT...BY *THOUGHT* ALONE!

NEXT, I CAREFULLY *COMPLETED* MY "EDUCATION" IN *DAHOMEY*, THE CAPITAL OF *SORCERY* IN THE HEART OF *AFRICA*...

I'M THE ONLY *FOREIGNER* IN DECADES TO BE PERMITTED TO OBSERVE THE RITUAL OF *JUJU*... THE ART OF MENTALLY *CONTROL-LING* ANY ENEMY!

THEN, AT LAST, I KNEW...I WAS *READY..!*

AND NOW, THE MOMENT IS *HERE!*

AIDED BY MY *PSYCHO-INTENSIFIER*, I HAVE THE POWER TO PUT MY OWN *MENTALITY* IN THE BODY OF *ANOTHER*...

IN THE BODY OF THE ONE WHO WILL *DESTROY* SPIDER-MAN!

ALL I NEED DO IS BRING MY FATEFUL CAST OF CHARACTERS *TOGETHER!*

AND, IN SO DOING, I'LL PROVE THAT THE SPAN OF COUNTLESS *MILES* CAN EASILY BE BRIDGED BY...THE *SORCERER!*

THEN, JUST AS THE SO-CALLED *SORCERER* APPLIES PRESSURE TO THE *JUJU DOLL* HE HOLDS IN HIS HANDS...

I'VE GOT TO REACH MY ROOM... BEFORE *HARRY* SEES ME...!

I'M TOO *WEAK* TO ANSWER ANY *QUESTIONS!*

IF ONLY I... *UNHHH!* MY *HEAD!!*

THE *PAIN*... WORSE THAN EVER.. LIKE A THOUSAND *TRIP-HAMMERS*... POUNDING ON MY *BRAIN!!*

I..NEVER *FELT*... ANYTHING... LIKE *THIS*..BEFORE!!

SOMEHOW... SOMETHING TELLS ME...IT'S *MORE* THAN JUST...A SIMPLE *HEADACHE!*

BUT... *WHAT* CAN IT *BE??*

I...MUSTN'T LET IT... *GET* ME!

WHATEVER IT IS... MAYBE AN *ASPIRIN* WILL HELP TO EASE THE PAIN...!

IF *NOT*...I DON'T KNOW... *WHAT* TO DO NEXT..!

IT'S GETTING *BETTER*...ALL OF A SUDDEN!.. *WHY?*

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE THE *SORCERER* HAS RELINQUISHED THE *PRESSURE* ON HIS FIGURINE...!

AND NOW... FOR *PHASE TWO*...!

ALTHOUGH NOBODY *KNOWS* SPIDER-MAN'S ADDRESS, THE POLICE WILL SOONER OR LATER *OPEN* THIS PACKAGE...

AND THEN, THE WORLD WILL *KNOW* WHO IT WAS THAT *DEFEATED* HIM!!

BY *THEN*, IT WILL BE *TOO LATE* TO STOP ME..OR TO *CATCH* ME!

MY VICTORY WILL BE TRULY *COMPLETE* ONLY IF I RECEIVE FULL *CREDIT* FOR IT!

ALL OF MANKIND MUST LEARN TO *FEAR* THE AWESOME, INVINCIBLE, MYSTIC POWER OF...THE *SORCERER!*

THE NEXT MORNING...
HEY, PETE! WHAT GIVES, PAL?
IT'S LUCKY WE'VE NO CLASSES TODAY! I NEVER SAW YOU SLEEP SO LATE BEFORE!
I DON'T KNOW, HARRY!
GUESS I'M JUST REALLY BUSHED!
I STILL DON'T FEEL RIGHT!
I'LL HAVE TO GO SEE A DOCTOR!
BUT, I HATE TO HAVE A DOCTOR CHECK ME!
I'M ALWAYS AFRAID HE'LL FIND SOME CLUE TO...MY SPIDER POWER!
AND YET... I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!
HARRY... DO ME A FAVOR, HUH? GIVE DOC BROMWELL A RING!
YOU, CALLING THE DOCTOR?
SAY...YOU MUST BE SICK!
WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK OUR DOUBLE-DATE FOR TONIGHT!
THUS, MINUTES AFTER THE CALL TO DR. BROMWELL, MARY JANE WATSON'S PHONE IS PICKED UP BY THE RAVEN-TRESSED CHARMER HERSELF...
SORRY ABOUT PEERLESS PETE, HARR!
BE SURE HE DOESN'T BREATHE ON YOU, DAD! IT MIGHT BE CONTAGIOUS!
DON'T WORRY ...I'LL TELL GWEN-DOLYNE!
THEN, EVEN AS MJ DIALS OUR HERO'S DAZZLING DATE...
WOTTA JOB!
SAME OLD THING... DAY IN, AND DAY OUT!
AWW, IT COULD BE WORSE!
SPIDER-MAN
℅ GENERAL DELIVERY
NEW YORK, N.Y.
MAYBE SOMEDAY WE'LL SPOT SOME-THING INTERESTING!
AND, SPOT IT THEY WILL! BUT, MEANWHILE...
I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOU, PETER!
TRY TO GET SOME REST... AND SEE ME IN A WEEK OR TWO!
PERHAPS YOU'VE JUST BEEN STUDY-ING TOO HARD... NOT ENOUGH SLEEP...
OKAY, DOC!
OF COURSE, IT MIGHT BE SOME FORM OF 24-HOUR VIRUS!
I'LL GIVE YOU A PRESCRIPTION TO GET FOR HIM, JUST IN CASE!
I'M SORRY... TO CAUSE SO MUCH TROUBLE...!
BUT I'M SURE RELIEVED THAT'S IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS!
MINUTES LATER, OUR WOEBEGONE WALL-CRAWLER HAS A COUPLE OF CAPTIVATING CALLERS...
SURE YOU'RE NOT PUTTING US ON, PETEY-O?
YOU'RE COOL AS A CUCUMBER!
YEAH... A SICK CUCUMBER, LADY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT GWEN, ROOMMATE! WE'LL TAKE HER OUT WITH US!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, HARRY! I'LL STAY IN CASE PETE NEEDS ANYTHING!
NO... YOU GO WITH THEM, GIRL...
ALL I NEED IS SLEEP!
WELL, IF YOU PROMISE TO DREAM OF ME!
HOW COULD I HELP IT?

C'MON, GALS! I'LL PICK UP PETEY'S *PRESCRIPTION* WHILE YOU GO HOME AND DRESS!

I'LL BE THE ENVY OF THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE WITH *YOU* TWO ON MY ARM!

I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M *DESERTING* POOR PETE!

DON'T WORRY, GORGEOUS!

SINCE I'M HIS *BEST FRIEND*, WE'RE KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY!

JUST BE SURE GWENDOLYNE REMEMBERS WHOSE *DATE* YOU ARE, TIGER!

THE DOC SAID I'M *OKAY*...

BUT MY HEAD'S *ACHING*..WORSE THAN *EVER!*

SORRY WE CAN'T GO ALONG WITH *HARRY* AND HIS TWO DELICIOUS DAMSELS... BUT WE'VE GOT TO PAY *STRICT ATTENTION* FROM NOW ON..!

THE TIME HAS *COME...!*

I'VE CONNECTED THE *PSYCHO-INTENSIFIER* TO MY OWN *BRAIN!!*

THUS, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO *CONTROL* ANY VICTIM I MAY CHOOSE!

CLIK!

AND... WHEREVER HE MAY *BE*... THE ONE I CHOOSE IS... *SPIDER-MAN!*

HAVE TO GET *UP!*

CAN'T STAY IN BED ANY *LONGER!*

I..MUST GET... *DRESSED!*

DON'T KNOW *WHY*, BUT...

I HAVE... NO OTHER *CHOICE!*

SECONDS LATER...

WHY AM I WALKING IN THE *STREET*... WITH MY *SUIT-CASE??*

WHERE AM I *GOING?*

WHAT THE..??

HEY, PETE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF *BED?!!*

HAVE TO *GO!* CAN'T STOP..TO TALK..WITH *ANY-ONE!!* THERE'S... NO *TIME!*

I DON'T *GET* IT!! HE... HE'S *IGNORING* ME!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR *PRESCRIPTION??* I'VE *GOT* IT FOR... *HEY!.. PETE!!*

TO THE *AIRPORT*, DRIVER!

DON'T STOP FOR *ANYTHING!*

OKAY BY *ME*, MISTER!

MY GLOOMY ROOMIE'S EITHER *SLEEP-WALKING* ...OR HE'S *NUTS!*

BLUE CAB C

BUT ALAS, PETER PARKER IS *NEITHER* SLEEP-WALKING, NOR IS HE NUTS! (AT LEAST, SO FAR AS WE KNOW!)

INSTEAD, HE IS FOLLOWING AN IRRESISTIBLE *MENTAL COMMAND*, MADE BY A SINISTER *STRANGER* WHOM HE'S NEVER EVEN SEEN...!

WHAT MADE ME *DO* IT?

WHY DID I BUY AN AIRLINE TICKET TO *NEW ORLEANS??* I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* ANYONE THERE!

CAN I BE... GOING *MAD??*

THEN, A FEW SHORT HOURS LATER...

I FEEL LIKE SOME SORT OF MINDLESS *PUPPET*...

OBEYING THE COMMANDS OF SOME UNKNOWN, UNSEEN *MASTER!*

STILL, I HAVE TO SEE IT *THRU!*

I HAVE TO FOLLOW THIS MYSTIC *PRODDING* ...AND SEE WHERE IT *LEADS* ME!

LUCKY I HAD SOME *MONEY* SAVED UP...FROM THAT LAST BATCH OF *NEWS PIX* I SOLD TO JOLLY JONAH!

TAXI, MISTER?

SURE! MIGHT AS WELL ARRIVE IN *STYLE!*

ARRIVE *WHERE?!!* ...WHERE AM I *GOING?*

I'LL RELIEVE THE *PRESSURE* FOR A FEW MINUTES!

I MUST BE SURE I DO NOT *OVER-TAX* MYSELF... FOR THE *MOMENT OF TRUTH* IS STILL AHEAD!

THAT IS WHEN HE WILL MEET... THE *SYNTHETIC MAN!*

AND, AS THE GRUELLING *PAIN* MOMENTARILY SUBSIDES WITHIN POOR PETER'S HEAD...

BETTER TAKE ME...TO THE NEAREST *HOTEL!*

I NEED A PLACE TO *REST*...TO *THINK!!*

WELL, IF THERE'S *ONE* THING THEY HAVE PLENTY OF IN NEW ORLEANS... IT'S *HOTELS..!*

NEVER *FELT* THIS WAY BEFORE!

I MADE A *MISTAKE* CALLING DOC BROMWELL!

IT ISN'T A *DOCTOR* I NEED...NOT A DOCTOR LIKE *HIM*, ANYWAY!

I'M RIPE FOR A GOOD *HEAD-SHRINKER!*

GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, SIR!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE *WAS* A MARDI GRAS --!

DO YOU PLAN TO STAY FOR THE ENTIRE *MARDI GRAS?*

AS FOR HOW *LONG* I'LL STAY...*YOUR* GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE!

YES INDEED! YOU *NEW YORKERS* ARE GREAT LITTLE *KIDDERS!*

SECONDS LATER, WE FIND OUR "GREAT LITTLE KIDDER" DESPERATELY TRYING TO MAKE SOME *SENSE* OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED...

WHY WOULD I SUDDENLY TAKE A PLANE TO *NEW ORLEANS*... FOR NO *REASON* AT ALL?

IT'S AS THOUGH ...I'VE *LOST CONTROL*... OVER MY OWN ACTIONS!

AND, AS THE TROUBLED YOUTH ENGAGES IN SOME TORTUOUS SOUL-SEARCHING...

HEY, CHARLIE... WADDAYA MAKE OF *THIS* ONE?

A PACKAGE ADDRESSED ONLY TO *SPIDER-MAN*, CARE OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE!

BETTER RETURN IT TO THE *SENDER*, LOU!

MUST BE SOME KIND OF *PRACTICAL JOKE!*

SPIDER-MAN
C/o GENERAL DELIVERY
NEW YORK, N.Y.

SO, WHILE THE TIGHTLY-WRAPPED *JUJU DOLL* BAFFLES THE POST OFFICE HANDLERS...

SO MUCH *NOISE* OUT THERE... I CAN HARDLY *THINK!*

WHAT'S CAUSING ALL THE *COMMOTION?*

I SHOULD HAVE *GUESSED!*

THE MARDI GRAS HAS ALREADY *STARTED!*

WELL, I WON'T BE ABLE TO *SLEEP* WITH ALL THAT RACKET---*THAT'S* FOR SURE!

SO I MIGHT AS WELL GO DOWN AND JOIN THE FUN!

GOOD THING I BROUGHT MY *SPIDEY SUIT* ALONG!

WITH EVERYONE *ELSE* IN COSTUME, NOBODY'LL SUSPECT THAT THIS IS THE *REAL* THING!

STRANGE... MY HEAD ISN'T *HURTING* AS MUCH NOW!

WELL... HERE *GOES!*

UH-OH! I SPOKE TOO *SOON!*

THE PAIN'S *WITH* ME AGAIN... WORSE THAN *EVER!*

AND...SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE... GUIDING MY *FOOTSTEPS..!*

IT'S LIKE I *HAVE* TO WALK.. IN *THIS* DIRECTION!

BUT, IF SPIDEY COULD SEE WHAT *WE* CAN, HE'D KNOW THE REASON *WHY..!*

NOW I MUST APPLY MORE PRESSURE THAN *EVER!!*

HE *MUST* WALK TOWARDS THE PREARRANGED *WAREHOUSE!*

FOR, IT IS *THERE* THAT HE WILL MEET... THE *HOLLOW MAN!*

CAN'T *STOP* MYSELF! I... *HAVE* TO... ENTER..THAT *WARE-HOUSE..!*

NEW O LEANS WAREHOUS

THAT DOOR... AHEAD OF ME..!

AN ARROW IN MY BRAIN SEEMS TO BE POINTING THE WAY RIGHT TO IT!

I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF NOW---NO MATTER WHAT!

MY SPIDER SENSE!! IT'S TINGLING... VIOLENTLY!

BUT, WHAT CAN IT BE... THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM MY OWN HOME??

THERE'S TROUBLE AHEAD... DEADLY TROUBLE! I CAN FEEL IT!

IT'S HERE... INSIDE THE WAREHOUSE!

IT'S COMING FROM.. BEHIND ME!

BUT---THERE'S NOTHING THERE!!

NOTHING--- EXCEPT--THAT SOLITARY, TEN-FOOT HIGH CRATE!!

THIS END UP

USE NO HOOKS

THE CRATE... THAT'S IT!

THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE... SOMETHING GIGANTIC... STARTING TO BREAK OUT!

KRAK!

THAT HAND! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT!

A GIANT!! BUT...A GIANT WHAT??

HEY...HOLD IT!! STAY BACK!! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER...!!

THUMP!

I DON'T KNOW WHO...OR WHAT YOU REALLY ARE--- BUT ONE THING'S SURE---

NOBODY WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF GETTING US TOGETHER JUST 'CAUSE THEY WANTED MY AUTO-GRAPH!

NOW LOOK!! I TOLD YOU TO STAY BA--- HEY!

HITTING YOU IS LIKE DRIVING MY FIST INTO SOLID RUBBER!!

THAT PROVES ONE THING... WHATEVER YOU ARE, IT SURE ISN'T HUMAN!

AND THAT PROVES SOMETHING ELSE...

A SPIDER-MAN FAN ---YOU AIN'T!

=UNHHH!= I WAS AFRAID OF THAT! HE CAN MAKE HIS BODY AS PLIABLE---OR AS ROCK HARD AS HE HAS TO!

I ALMOST CURDLED MY KNUCKLES ON HIM THAT TIME!

=OOOFF!= SOMETHING TELLS ME HE'S THE ANSWER TO EVERY-THING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME LATELY!

SOMEONE WANTED ME TO COME TO NEW ORLEANS...JUST TO MEET THAT GIANT SYNTHETIC MAN!!

BUT WHO?? AND... WHY??

UH OH!

LOOKS LIKE MY OVERSIZED SPAR-RING PARTNER ISN'T GONNA GIVE ME A *CHANCE* TO FIGURE IT *OUT!*

BUT, NO MATTER *HOW* MUCH MY HEAD MAY BE *ACHING*...

I'M NOT EXACTLY *HELPLESS* MYSELF!!

=UNHHH!!= *BLAST* IT---THERE'S *ONE* THING THE *PAIN* DID TO ME---

IT SLOWED DOWN MY *REFLEXES* ENOUGH FOR HIM TO *GRAB* ME!!

THUP!

TOO BAD---THAT HE DOESN'T--- *TALK!*

HOW'LL I FIND OUT... WHO'S THE BADDIE *BEHIND* HIM?

ALTHOUGH, MY *FIRST* PROBLEM IS JUST TO HOLD HIM *BACK..!*

AND A GLOB OF *WEBBING* OUGHTTA TAKE CARE OF *THAT!*

IZZZZIT!

OH NOOO!

EVEN HIS *FOREHEAD* IS A WEAPON!

BUT, ANY WELL-ADJUSTED LITTLE WALL-CRAWLER KNOWS WHEN IT'S TIME TO *CUT OUT!*

I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE THE SLOWEST *DUCK* IN A *SHOOTING GALLERY!*

FZAT!

HIS BLAST JUST *MISSED* ME!!

BUT ITS *IMPACT* HAD ENOUGH FORCE TO KNOCK ME OFF MY PERCH *ANYWAY!*

THIS COULD ONLY HAPPEN TO A LOSER LIKE *ME!*

HERE I AM... FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE AGAINST A STRANGE *SYNTHETIC MAN--!*

AND I DON'T KNOW *WHO*... OR *WHY*.. OR *ANY-THING!*

IF ONLY MY *HEAD* WOULD STOP THROBBING!

I CAN'T EVEN SEEM TO *THINK* THROUGH ALL THE *PAIN--!!*

BTOK!

THE *LEAST* I CAN DO IS *OBLIGE* HIM!

---SPECIALLY SINCE HE DIDN'T LEAVE ME ANY *CHOICE!*

THUP!

FTAP!

WELL, IF HE'S GOT HIS HEART *SET* ON BRINGING ME DOWN TO *EARTH* AGAIN---

NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET UP, AND...

UHHHH--- THE PAIN... IT---IT'S GETTING WORSE!!

C'MON, SPIDEY... FIGHT IT, FELLA!! DON'T GIVE UP NOW, BOY!

UNNHHH! HE---HE GOT ME AGAIN!

SQUEEZING--SO HARD...I CAN HARDLY.. BREATHE..!

ONLY CHANCE... FALL BACK... HARD!!

I DID IT!

AND NOW ...WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME...!

I'VE... GOT TO TOSS HIM..!

LIKE THIS!

THIS IS MY CHANCE! I CAN MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, WHILE HE'S UNDER THE BARRELS!

MY HEAD... EVERYTHING'S SPINNING 'ROUND!!

AS THOUGH SOMEONE... OR SOMETHING... WON'T LET ME GET UP!!

CAN'T EVEN... KEEP MY BALANCE!!

CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE... OF THIS... WITHOUT... BLACKING OUT...!

WHOEVER YOU ARE... WHOEVER IS DOING THIS TO ME...

SHOW YOURSELF!! DO YOU HEAR..?? YOU CRUMMY .. COWARD..!!

THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE...

MY LEG!!

HE CAUGHT ME AGAIN!!

HE'S MOVING.. TOO FAST!

NOT... TAKING ANY... CHANCES!

ABOUT TO TOSS ME...THRU THE WINDOW!

SPLANG!

HAVE TO TWIST... AND TURN MY BODY... JUST RIGHT!!

LOOK! SOMEONE'S PLAYING SPIDER-MAN!

THERE! THIS'LL BREAK THE FALL..!!

IF YOU ASK ME, HE'S TAKING THE PART TOO SERIOUSLY!

WHAT A GREAT BIT!!

FIRST SPIDEY...AND NOW, SOMEONE PRETENDING TO BE A GIANT SUPER-VILLAIN!

I...CERTAINLY HOPE..HE'S PRETENDING!

SAY--LOOK AT THE GUY!

HE MUST HAVE HURT HIMSELF IN THE FALL!!

PAIN... WORSE THAN EVER--!

CAN'T EVEN STAND!! WHAT AM I GONNA DO?? WHAT CAN I DO??

AND, HALF-WAY ACROSS THE CONTINENT, A STRANGELY-SMIRKING *SORCERER* WHISPERS A TRIUMPHANT REPLY---

YOU CAN PREPARE--- TO *DIE!*

NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU *NOW!*

BUT FRIVOLOUS *FATE* HAS HER OWN WAY OF ALTERING THE *BEST* OF PLANS! ERGO --!

NO SENSE KEEPING THIS PACKAGE AROUND THE *POST OFFICE* ANY LONGER!

MIGHT AS WELL *RETURN* IT--- TO THE *SENDER!*

SPIDER-MAN C/O GENERAL DELIVERY NEW YORK, N.Y.

WHY DOESN'T HE ANSWER HIS *BELL?*

ALAS, THE PUZZLED POSTMAN HAS NO WAY OF *KNOWING* THAT THE SHRILL RING OF THE *DOORBELL* HAS CHANGED THE MYSTIC PITCH OF THE SORCERER'S *PSYCHO-INTENSIFIER*---

EEEEEEEEEEEE

---CHANGED IT JUST *ENOUGH* TO CAUSE A DEADLY MENTAL *FEEDBACK*...

EEEEEEEEEEEE

---ONE WHICH *NO HUMAN BRAIN* ON EARTH CAN HAVE THE POWER TO *WITH-STAND!!*

NOT EVEN THE DEMONIAC BRAIN OF... THE *SORCERER!!*

THEN, AS THE GAUNT, GHOULISH FIGURE SLOWLY GROWS LIMP---AND SILENT---

IT'S JUST A *MUSCLE SPASM!*

BUT... IT DOESN'T LOOK AS THOUGH--- I'VE *GOT* THAT LONG!

I'LL BE OKAY IN A MINUTE!

HE'S COMING *CLOSER*... TO FINISH ME *OFF..!*

BUT, JUST AS THE YOUTHFUL ADVENTURER GIRDS HIMSELF FOR ONE FINAL, SUPREME *EFFORT*---

C'MON, SPIDEY!! YOU CAN *DO* IT!

CAN'T JUST LIE HERE AND *TAKE* IT!

I'VE *GOT* TO GET *UP*... GOT TO FIGHT *BACK*... SOMEHOW!

YOU'VE... *GOT* TO... DO IT!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!!... HE'S GONE *RIGID!!*

HE'S LETTING THE *CART* FALL TO THE *GROUND!*

CAN IT BE... SOME SORT OF *TRICK*...??

MAYBE HE WANTED TO THROW ME OFF-GUARD!

HE'S STILL HEADING THIS WAY--!

WELL, LET HIM COME! MY SPASM'S GONE--!

I DON'T GET IT!

HE WALKED RIGHT PAST ME--LIKE I WASN'T HERE!

HE'S MOVING WITHOUT SENSE... WITHOUT PURPOSE... LIKE A SLEEP-WALKER!

HE'S LIKE SOME GREAT, LIVING MACHINE--SUDDENLY GONE OUT OF CONTROL!

IT'S AS THOUGH HE HAD NEVER FOUGHT ME... NEVER EVEN SEEN ME!

AND... MY HEAD! IT'S CLEAR AGAIN! THE ACHE IS GONE!

IT HAPPENED AT THE SAME INSTANT AS HIS ABOUT-FACE!

HE WALKED INTO THE GULF... HE ISN'T STOPPING!

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS... HE'LL BE GONE... FOREVER! THE DANGER IS ENDED... I KNOW IT... I CAN FEEL IT!

BUT... WHAT WAS HIS PURPOSE??

BUT WHY??

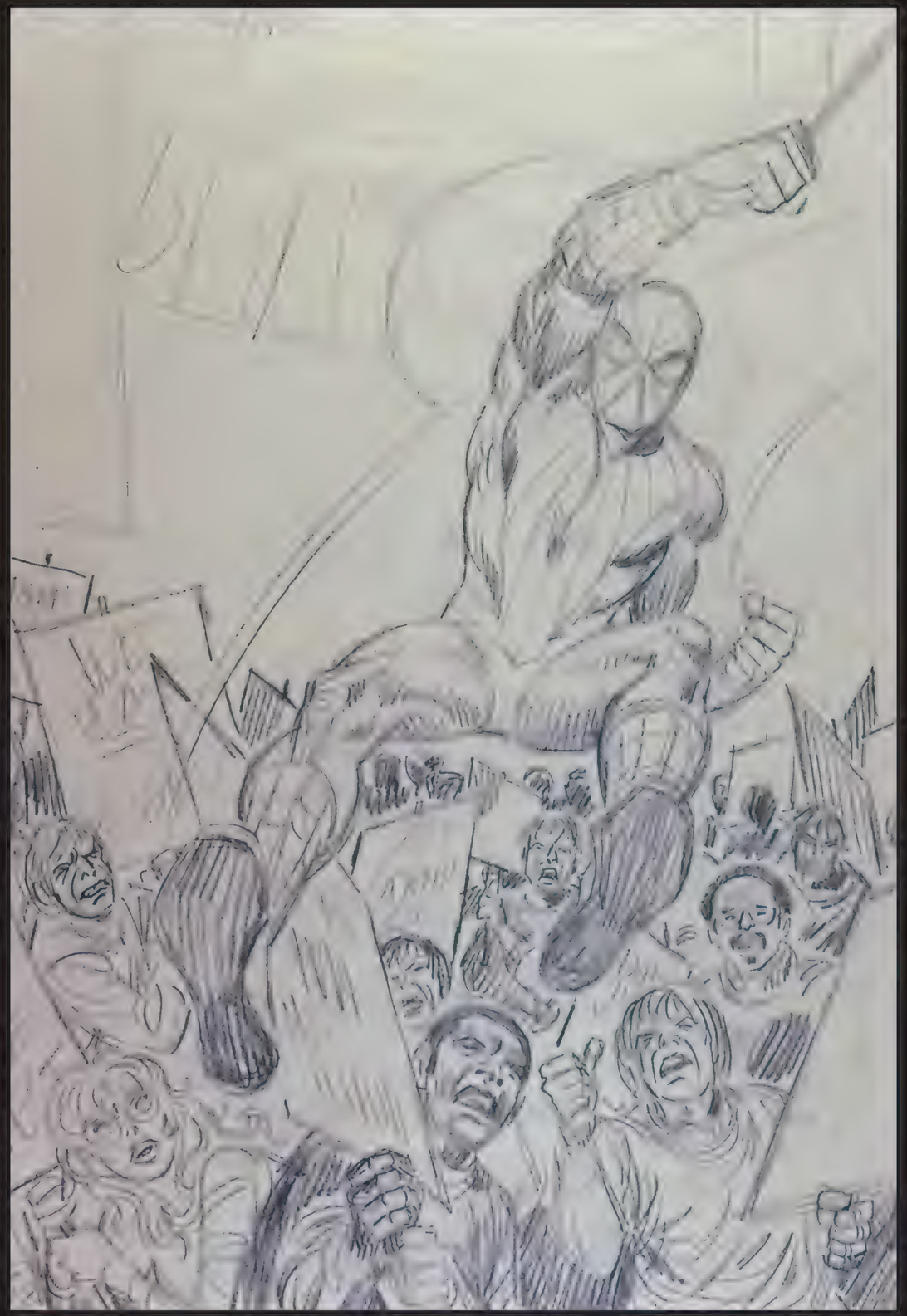
WEARY AND MYSTIFIED, THE COSTUMED TEENAGER TURNS, HEADING FOR HIS HOTEL ROOM, AND THE LONG JOURNEY HOME!

I'VE FOUGHT ONE OF THE MOST DESPERATE BATTLES OF MY LIFE... AGAINST A HIDDEN, NAMELESS FOE!

AND, IN SOME WAY THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND... THAT I MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND--I SEEM TO KNOW THAT THE VICTORY IS... MINE!

THE END

The Amazing Spider-Man #68 cover sketch
by John Romita



The Amazing Spider-Man #69 cover original art
by John Romita

Courtesy Heritage Auctions

The Amazing Spider-Man #71 cover original art
by John Romita

Courtesy Scott Dunbier

The Amazing Spider-Man #75 cover original art
by John Romita

Courtesy Scott Dunbier

Essential Spider-Man Vol. 4 TPB (2000) cover art
by Bruce Timm

Essential Spider-Man Vol. 4 TPB (2000) back cover art
by Bruce Timm

BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust in to the Depression-era economy. Meanwhile, Martin Goodman's Timely Comics needed staff, and Stan, Goodman's wife's cousin, joined as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so for his comic book work he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

He quickly graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories, and before long his proficiency on the job earned him the position of managing editor while still a teenager. His tenure in the '50s saw the company's expansion (under the name Atlas) to include horror, crime, Western, war, satire and romance comics.

All this was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists including the formidably talented Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to find a way to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Lee figured he would co-opt the super-hero revival at DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Marvel's heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just as the average person might.

Lee's innovation sent shock waves throughout comics, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold. Under his direction, the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and the Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Lee developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus broadening the story possibilities for eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Lee also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Lee wrote virtually every comic that Marvel published during the '60s. But when he was promoted to publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Lee has returned to write scripts for the occasional single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. His standing in the field was recognized with his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1994, and to this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

JOHN ROMITA

Without question one of the most loved and influential artists to grace the pages of Marvel Comics, John Romita was born in 1930 and, fresh out of a fine arts high school, quickly joined the ranks of comic-book artists. Romita broke into the field at Atlas, the 1950s incarnation of Marvel Comics, contributing to their many war, Western, horror, and jungle adventure series, as well as the 1953-54 revival of Captain America.

After the 1957 Atlas implosion, he moved to DC, working on romance titles including *Secret Hearts*, *Girls' Love Stories* and *Young Love*. It wasn't until 1966 that he returned to Marvel and the super-hero genre in the pages of *Daredevil* #12-19, including a guest appearance by a certain friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. Having done such a confident rendering of Spider-Man in the pages of *Daredevil*, it was an easy choice to tap Romita as the new artist on what was fast becoming Marvel's most important title—*The Amazing Spider-Man.*

After a few issues struggling in the mold of Steve Ditko, Romita came into his own with a bold style regarded as one of the most iconic in comic-book art. John developed a look for Peter Parker and his world that would define the character for years to come. His more muscular and firm figure drawings added a bolder flair to the book, and his years of drawing beautiful women in DC's romance books paid off big-time with definitive renderings of Gwen Stacy and the introduction of Mary Jane Watson.

For the better part of the next seven years, Romita drew *The Amazing Spider-Man* (spelled at times by Gil Kane). He also did a brief stint on *The Fantastic Four*, being the first to draw the book after Jack Kirby's 103-issue tenure, and returned to Captain America for another acclaimed run.

It was about this time when Romita was anointed art director for Marvel. Though his responsibilities kept him from drawing a monthly series, John had perhaps an even greater influence over the look and feel of the line. In addition to drawing countless covers, he also designed characters from the Punisher to Wolverine as well as the Spider-Man balloon for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. He also trained the next generation of artists in Marvel's Art Department, known as Romita's Raiders.

Romita's stature in the field was recognized by his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 2002. To this day, though semi-retired, Romita steps up to the drawing board to lend his mastery of the medium to the occasional cover or story. Beyond that, though, the Romita legacy is in safekeeping with John Romita Jr., who is now—much like his father was at the height of his career—setting the tempo for the look of Marvel Comics.

JOHN BUSCEMA

Though primarily known for his long tenure as one of Marvel Comics' most prolific pencilers, John Buscema began his celebrated career at the age of 21 with Timely Comics. After Timely closed its in-house Bullpen, Buscema pursued comics work for a time before he left comics altogether for advertising in 1958.

When he returned to comics, however, he did so with a vengeance. Stan Lee recruited him away from advertising and quickly ensconced him into the upper ranks of Marvel artists. Picking up where *Avengers* mainstay Don Heck left off, "Big John" began what would be one of the title's definitive artistic runs. The much-anticipated *Silver Surfer* series was launched with Buscema at the helm, and top-tier books like *Fantastic Four* and *Thor* were entrusted to his care after Jack Kirby left Marvel for DC Comics.

Buscema's bold, muscular artwork commanded the comic-book page with realistic figurework that represented the next evolutionary step in post-Kirby Marvel Comics style. The respect accorded him within Marvel as an artist's artist was of such renown that he literally wrote the book on drawing, composing *How To Draw Comics the Marvel Way* with Stan Lee, the classic "how to" book in comic-book illustration.

He worked from the '70s through the '90s on nearly every title in the Marvel stable, including his personal favorite, *Conan the Barbarian*, with Roy Thomas. He retired in 1996, but returned every now and then to the comics scene until he passed away after a battle with cancer in 2002, the same year he was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame.

JIM MOONEY

A prolific comics artist since the 1940s, Jim Mooney proved nimble enough at penciling and inking that he gained a reputation for both disciplines that kept him in constant employ for decades. Tabbed by his peers with the nickname "Gentleman" Jim for his positive and polite demeanor, he became an artist revered by fans of both DC and Marvel Comics.

Mooney broke into the business working under the tutelage of such luminaries as Will Eisner, Lou Fine and Nick Cardy. He would grow to find his artistic voice alongside peers like George Tuska and Ruben Moreira, freelancing for many of the era's most prominent publishers. As the decade progressed, his work at DC took prominence. Mooney was crafting stories of the Dynamic Duo in both *Batman* and *Detective Comics*, plus Robin stories in *Star-Spangled Comics*. He also drew many of the seminal adventures of Tommy Tomorrow in *Action Comics*. It was while drawing Supergirl in the pages of *Action Comics*, however, that Mooney crafted an enduring legacy with his clean, illustrative take on Superman's cousin.

Mooney worked at DC until 1968, when his bold, streamlined style was called upon to team with John Romita on *The Amazing Spider-Man*. It would be the beginning of a relationship with the web-slinger that would lead to almost two decades of memorable penciling and inking of the character, including *The Spectacular Spider-Man*, *Marvel Team-Up* and the flagship title. Mooney lent his hand to virtually every title Marvel produced in one way or another including noteworthy runs on *Ghost Rider*, *Man-Thing* and *Omega the Unknown*.

In 2008, Mooney passed away at the age of 89 after an extended illness.

ROSS ANDRU

An everyman and entrepreneur throughout his long career in comics, Ross Andru became the stalwart penciler of Marvel's *Amazing Spider-Man* in 1973, gaining a renown as one of the great Spidey artists. With a smooth, compact style that eschewed extraneous detail, Andru's artistic visions were grounded in a reality that engaged the medium's readers.

His career in comics began in 1951. With an education at the Cartoonists and Illustrators School and a gig drawing Burne Hogarth's weekly *Tarzan* strips behind him, the Cleveland native teamed with inker Mike Esposito to form not only a decades-enduring artistic partnership but their own company, MR Publications.

Their next company, Mikeross Publications, turned out such fare as the satirical *Get Lost* and the romance title *Heart and Soul*. The success of these initiatives fleeting in the face of an industry-wide downturn, Andru would often find himself splitting time between Marvel and DC. At Marvel, he mainly handled Western comics like *Annie Oakley*, while at DC, he contributed to Robert Kanigher's war comics like *Star-Spangled War Stories* and *Our Army At War*, wherein he drew the first appearance of Sgt. Rock of Easy Company in 1959.

His impressive performance with Esposito garnered him a chance to take over *Wonder Woman*, starting a nine-year-long run that would stretch through 1967 and find him depicting charming stories of Diana Prince's teenage years on Paradise Island. Another notable title that Andru would work on in the '60s was *Metal Men*. Leaping from *Showcase* to its own bimonthly title, Andru and Esposito crafted a sweet-natured heroic fantasy starring artificially intelligent robots.

A move to Marvel in the early '70s resulted in key work on *Marvel Feature*, in which he drew the first adventures of The Defenders, and *Marvel Team-Up*, his first regular foray on Spider-Man. Over the next five years, Andru would team with writer Gerry Conway and produce milestones including the first appearance of the Punisher, Harry Osborn donning the guise of the Green Goblin and the infamous Spider-Mobile. Completely at home in the cityscapes that Spider-Man called home, Andru's approach kept Spider-Man at the top of the sales charts through the decade. He also drew the first Marvel/DC crossover, *Superman vs. The Amazing Spider-Man*.

In 1978, Andru returned to DC in an editorial capacity, with his art focused mainly on covers, but his pencils would grace the interiors of books like *Atari Force*, *Jonah Hex*, *Vigilante* and *Blue Beetle*. He largely retired from the field by the late '80s and passed away shortly after his last work was published in 1993. In 2007, Andru and his longtime collaborator Mike Esposito were inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-16
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-2
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-14
THE BLACK PANTHER VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-7
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-5
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-8
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-4
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-6
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-15
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-7
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-8
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-2
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOL. 1
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-4
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-5
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-12
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-8

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

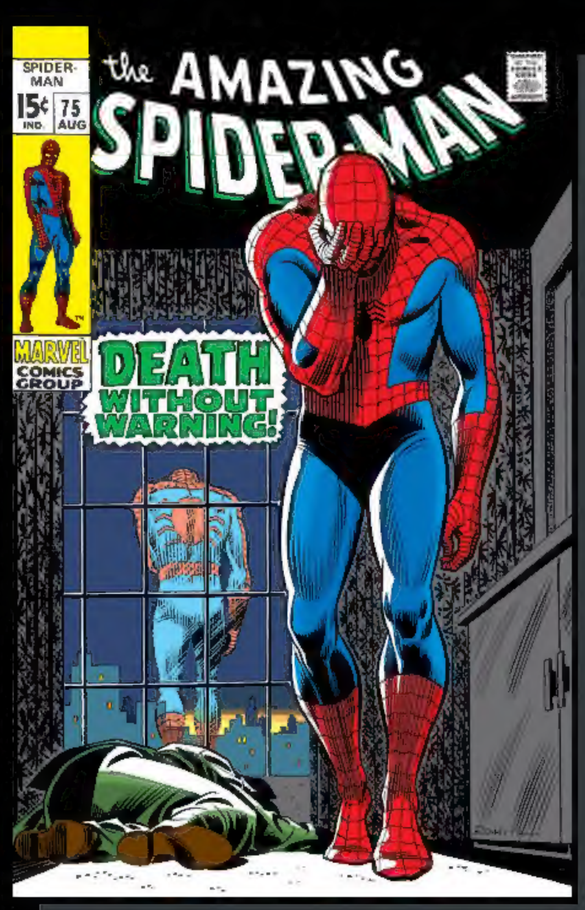
At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

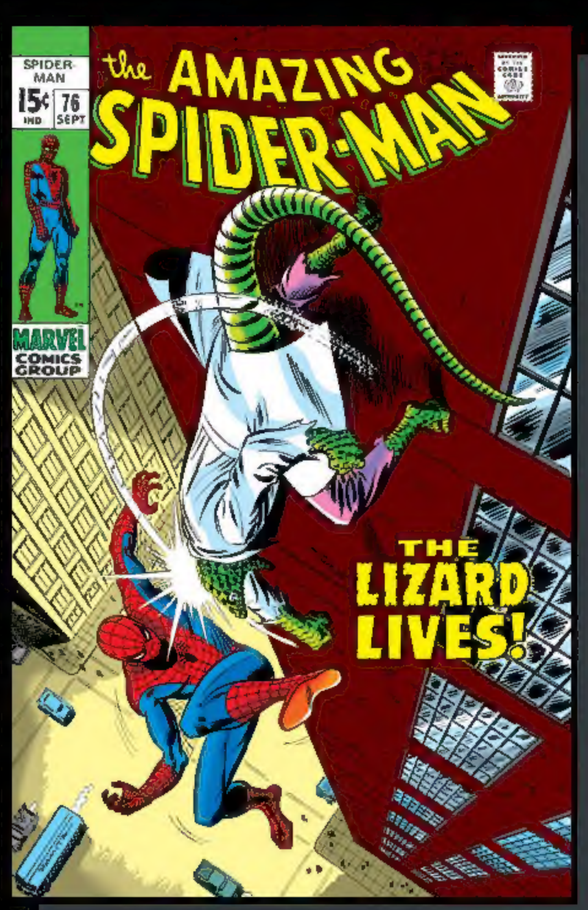
GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1





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MARVEL

COLLECTING *THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #68-77 & *MARVEL SUPER-HEROES* #14